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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 226

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2017 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Handgun ban in NMI OK'd but...

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has enacted a law that seeks to ban once again firearms in the CNMI. It would only take effect, however, if the U.S. district court's judgment in the *Radich v. Guerrero* case is "vacated, reversed, stayed, overruled, superseded, or in any other way rendered without immediate binding force."

» **Law takes effect if district court reverses ruling in *Radich* case**

H.B. 20-34, which was offered by Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), seeks to revive the prohibition of firearms in the CNMI, in the wake of the *Radich v. Guerrero* case.

In that case, U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich had sued former Department of Public Safety commissioner James Deleon Guerrero and Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson to challenge the

See HANDGUN on Page 4

EPA: CNMI air quality surpasses standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has congratulated the CNMI for having air quality that surpasses even the U.S. national standard.

In a letter dated Nov. 6, 2017, EPA administrator E. Scott Pruitt told Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres that air quality in the CNMI meets the 2015 ground-level ozone standards.

Pruitt

Based on the EPA standards, it has designated all of the CNMI as "attainment/unclassifiable." That means the air quality in the CNMI geographic area meets or is cleaner than the national standard.

"This is good news for the citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In encourage you to continue your efforts to maintain air quality that meets the 2015

See EPA on Page 4

Hocog announces Senate bid

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Hocog

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog intends to run for a Senate seat in the 2018 general election.

The lieutenant governor announced last Wednesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan his intent to represent Rota at the Senate as a Republican candidate.

He said he would also chair Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' selection committee for his lieutenant governor candidate.

"[Hocog] has been a trusted advisor and has taken on the responsibilities of the lieutenant governor fol-

See HOCOG on Page 4

XTRA Airways flights suspended

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

XTRA Airways flights from China to Saipan were cancelled starting Nov. 10, three months after it opened flights from Nanjing, to Saipan.

Thomas Nolte, XTRA Airways' Pacific Operations manager, confirmed the flight cancellation yesterday evening.

"XTRA Airways' China service is indefinitely suspended due to certain contractual issues with our Chinese client, Dream Pacific Aviation Services HK Ltd.," he said.

An initial explanation about the suspension of flights was explained by XTRA Airways

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OPEN HOUSE
The *Okeanos Marianas* is docked by the Garapan Fishing Base last Friday for interested community members to get on board and examine the vessel.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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INSIDE

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President Trump does not publicly rebuke President Duterte for drug war killings.

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WORLD
A powerful earthquake shook the Iran-Iraq border late Sunday, killing 207 people.

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FOCUS
Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi now benefits from Southeast Asia's silence.

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Local

Manibusan, Torres file joint petition for certified question

Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres have filed a joint petition for a certified question with the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

In a statement yesterday, Manibusan said the petition presents to the Supreme Court the question of the attorney general's authority to decline to appeal adverse judgments and whether outside counsel may prosecute an appeal for the governor or a Commonwealth government agency without a grant of authority from the attorney general.

A dispute between the two elected officials arose after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a decision in *Davis v. Commonwealth Election Commission*, 844 F.3d 1087 (9th Cir. 2016).

The Davis case involved the restriction in the Commonwealth Constitution limiting the right to vote on constitutional amendments involving land alienation to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

The Ninth Circuit held that the restriction—in Article 18, Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution—violates the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The attorney general declined to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari in the *Davis* case.

Without obtaining the consent of the attorney general, the governor directed private counsel, who met earlier with the attorney general, to file a petition for writ of certiorari.

On May 30, 2017, the private counsel filed the petition for writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of CEC, the CEC board chair, the CEC executive director, and the CNMI governor.

On Oct. 2, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the petition of the governor and CEC. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Hawaii leaders present a 10,000 donation to Northern Marianas College last week. From left, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president Erlinda Alegre, senior vice president and branch delivery/admin manager Malcolm Lau, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen, and BOH vice president and branch manager Rose Sumor.

Bank of Hawaii donates $10K to NMC

As part of its commitment to supporting Northern Marianas College students and their educational and professional growth, Bank of Hawaii recently donated $10,000 to the college to help enhance computer facilities for students.

Bank of Hawaii had also donated $25,000 over the last two years to NMC, bringing its total contribution to $35,000.

"For more than 30 years, Northern Marianas College has been graduating highly skilled and knowledgeable students, some of whom have become employees of the Bank of Hawaii," said Rose Sumor, Bank of Hawaii vice president and branch manager- Gualo Rai branch. "We want to continue supporting the college in its mission of providing a high quality and accessible education for CNMI residents."

The presentation of the donation was made at the bank's Gualo Rai branch, which opened for business last year. In addition to Sumor, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president Erlinda Alegre and senior vice president and branch delivery/admin manager Malcolm Lau visited Saipan to assist in the presentation of the donation.

"We are deeply appreciative of Bank of Hawaii's generosity and unwavering support of Northern Marianas College students," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The donation will help the college enhance facilities and programs so we can continue to expand and advance the services that we provide to our students and to the community."

"We are also glad that…Alegre and…Lau traveled to Saipan to make the contribution," added Fernandez. "We look forward to sharing with them the positive impact of their contribution to NMC." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PH consulate outreach this week

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI this week until Nov. 17, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport may submit their application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on marketing today

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "How to Write a Marketing Plan" at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom today, Nov. 14, 2017, from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Nicole Babauta, director/business adviser at CNMI SBDC. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

FOA meeting at Everest Kitchen tomorrow

The Friends of the Arts will hold its first member meeting in two years tomorrow, Nov. 15, from 6:30pm to 9pm, at the Everest Kitchen Restaurant, on Micro Beach Road across the American Memorial Park and next to Bridge Capital in Garapan. The meeting will also include musical and thespian entertainment. Meal cost is $15 for adults and $8 for children under 11.

FOA welcomes back its president, Susan Fischman-Tudor, and several new board members this year: Cherlyn Cabrera, Nicole Winegardner, Tucker Baldwin, and Katie Hoyt. Continuing board members include Fischman-Tudor, MariLou Conner, Frank Gibson, Harold Easton, Jody Jordahl, and Neil Fama. Confirm your attendance by email to Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com or 287-7476. ***(PR)***

Military training at Orote Point, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Orote Point tomorrow, Nov. 15, from 9am to 8pm. The training will be contained within the following coordinates: 13° 25' 24"N/144° 38' 15"E.

The training is designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

Training will also take place at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 16-18, from 10am to 11:59pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting of the Commonwealth Cancer Association this Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's conference room. Guest speaker will be Phuong Luu, MD, director of Public Health Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Sales training for holidays on Thursday

The "Customer Service & Suggestive Selling for the Holidays" training seminar will be conducted this Thursday, Nov. 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315). Registration fee is $50 per person for Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Kantan Isla this Friday

The Kantan Isla Music Festival will be held this Friday, Nov. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 11pm. For additional information, call CCA at 322-9982. There would be a raffle drawing and incentives for participating individuals. Ten vendor slots are open for non-profit organizations, families, and churches that want to raise funds. The council will be providing tents but a $25 park and recreation fee is required.

Las Vegas Night this Saturday

The 2017 Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night this Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, from 6pm to 12pm. This year the Rotary Club of Saipan will make a donation to the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Nevada to help those in this year's mass shootings. Each ticket is $5 or get five tickets for $20. You can call the Rotary Club of Saipan at 783-6378 for tickets, or visit any of the distribution points at Megabyte, NMPASI, or Paradise Dental. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan in Dec.

A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend this Friday to Sunday

The next CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 17-19 2017, this Friday to Sunday. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of $100. If couples are unable to fund the $100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmime@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. ***(PR)***

Jury favors Union Bank in Flores' suit over $200K TCD

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal jurors unanimously favored the MUFG Union Bank yesterday in Derron Gerard Flores' lawsuit to collect a $200,000 time certificate of deposit that his late father had purchased from the bank in 1993.

The seven jurors found that Donald Flores and Union Bank did enter into a contract. The jurors, however, determined that Derron Flores failed to prove that Union Bank breached the contract by failing to do something that the contract had required it to do without a valid excuse.

Juan T. Lizama, counsel for Derron Flores, later found the verdict surprising, adding that they are looking into whether to appeal.

For sure, Lizama said, they are going to appeal Derron Flores' claim for consumer protection violation.

Lizama said they were limited to that breach of contract claim because the U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed the consumer protection claim following the death of Flores' father, former Saipan mayor Donald Flores.

"To not press charge on the consumer protection violation, I think, restricts the plaintiff to enlarge his argument," he said.

"It's sad because two people died and they didn't enjoy their money," Lizama said. "Mr. Donald Flores was a decent man, he's not going to go and take his money twice."

Attorneys Sean Frink and Catherine Cachero, counsel for Union Bank, were not available for comment yesterday.

Donald Flores filed the lawsuit in 2011. When he died in June 2014, his wife, Cecilia, was appointed administratrix of his estate. Cecilia, however, also died in September 2015. Their son, Derron Flores, continued the lawsuit as administrator of Donald Flores' estate.

The lawsuit seeks to collect from MUFG Union Bank the principal and interest on the $200,000 32-day TCD 24 years after Donald Flores took it out at Union Bank on Saipan in 1993.

Flores claimed damages is for the $200,000 TCD principal, plus $438 for the 2.5 percent interest on the principal for the 32-day time period, for a total of $200,438.

Union Bank did not see any damages.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who presided over the trial, recently ruled that Flores may seek prejudgment interest on any damages that may be awarded in the trial.

Donald Flores purchased from Union Bank's Oleai Branch a 32-day maturing $200,000 TCD on Sept. 10, 1993. Lourdes Deleon Guerrero, an employee of Union Bank at that time, assisted Donald Flores in purchasing the TCD on Sept. 10, 1993. Deleon Guerrero signed the TCD on behalf of the bank.

Donald and his wife, Cecilia, left Saipan for Huntington Beach, California within a few days after.

In 2001, Union Bank sold its CNMI and Guam assets and liabilities to First Hawaiian Bank and stopped doing business in the CNMI.

On June 10 and Sept. 1, 2008, Donald Flores, through a prior attorney, wrote to Union Bank in California, stating that he had the original TCD and asked the bank to redeem it.

On Sept. 22, 2008, Union Bank, through its office in California, responded that it has no record of the TCD and thus could not redeem it.

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7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H251~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H259	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H272	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995

VELOSTER

7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

ELANTRA

7H010	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

MITSUBISHI

OUTLANDER SE

~~7M037~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSE~~ SOLD ~~WD~~	~~$3,000~~	~~$25,995~~
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995

mazda

MAZDA 3

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
~~8D023~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK~~ SOLD ~~, ALLOY WHEELS~~	~~$4,000~~	~~$18,995~~
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$18,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D027	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995

MAZDA 6

7D226	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, SPORT	$4,000	$20,995
7D242	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, TOURING	$4,000	$21,995

MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D203	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995

CX-3 SPORT

~~8D043~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC~~ SOLD ~~M, ALLOY WHEELS~~	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
~~8D048~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK~~ SOLD ~~, ALLOY WHEELS~~	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

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Parongan pleads not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The man accused of killing a woman and injuring her husband outside his home in Chalan Kanoa pleaded not guilty yesterday.

At his arraignment yesterday, Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, 55, pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Parongan, who was represented by assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, also waived advisement of his constitutional rights.

Status conference is on Jan. 9, 2018, at 1:30pm before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho presided over yesterday's arraignment.

In an interview with police detectives at the Department of Corrections the morning after the incident, Parongan allegedly confessed to smoking methamphetamine and drinking 12 cans of beer on the day of the incident.

Josefina Pineda, 53, suffered multiple stab wounds, including the fatal 4-inch deep gash in the neck, police said.

Antonio Barit, 62, sustained 12 injuries to the head, upper body, and right arm.

Pineda was allegedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan when the two got into argument in the evening of Oct. 29, 2017. He allegedly stabbed Pineda and Barit with a kitchen knife.

Police arrested Parongan and recovered the knife that same night.

Public gets an eyeful of *Okeanos Marianas*

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport opened the *Okeanos Marianas* canoe to the public last Friday, giving people a chance to tour the double-hulled, 50-foot open ocean sailing canoe

The *Okeanos Marianas*, a traditional Polynesian canoe, or *vaka motu*, arrived on Saipan on Oct. 30 after traveling from New Zealand.

Emma Perez, managing director of Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport, has been working on getting community members aboard the *Okeanos Marianas* for them to gain a knowledge on how the vessel works and how it will serve the Marianas.

According to Perez, over 100 individuals came out to the *Okeanos Marianas* open house last Friday and were taught the basics of the canoe. They were briefed about all of the canoe's components and mechanics.

Noah Deleon Guerrero, who visited the *Okeanos Marianas* with his family, was quite excited about the canoe. His one take away was how cool the cabins within the canoe were and how interesting the knots tied by the sailors were.

Perez said she took great joy in showing people the canoe's interior like its kitchen, sleeping quarters, and more.

"I think everyone was impressed and amazed at how wonderful the canoe is," she said.

The most enjoyable part for her was seeing how interested the public was with the vessel, especially children. "Seeing them touch the nets and touch the rudder, run up and down the ladders, for me that was the most enjoyable," said Perez.

The *Okeanos Marianas* would next travel to Rota for a triathlon and would be transporting gear from Saipan to Rota. Afterwards, the vessel and its crew will be travelling to Guam to get supplies that will be brought back to the Commonwealth. The last stop before arriving back on Saipan would be Tinian.

According to Perez, after they arrived back on Saipan from their trip, they will either make a trip to the Northern Islands or will offer more free introductory sails.

The *Okeanos Marianas* will not be making its trip to the Northern Islands until January next year. This is so that more crewmembers are trained for the voyage.

Perez is encouraging individuals who are passionate about the ocean to consider taking up a job as a sailor with the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport. "We need more crew," said Perez.

Perez is looking for individuals willing to take the opportunity to be trained by two seasoned ocean navigators.

The only requirement would be to know how to swim. The basis of passing the swim program is the ability to swim 300 meters, untimed.

For additional information, individuals can visit the Okeanos Marianas Facebook page or email Perez at emma.perez@Okeanos-marianas.com

$50K cash bail in alleged sex assault

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo retained yesterday a $50,000 cash bail that he earlier imposed on a 22-year-old man who allegedly sexually assaulted a 15-year-old girl who was earlier reported missing in Koblerville.

Peter Fritz Lizama was directed to have no contact with the girl.

Preliminary hearing will be on Nov. 16 at 1:30pm. Arraignment will be on Nov. 27 at 9am.

George Hasselback was appointed counsel for Lizama.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio appeared for the government at the bail hearing.

The girl was reported missing last Thursday night, but was recovered by police the following day. Police learned that she did not return home from the day before, Wednesday.

Police arrested Lizama last Friday.

According to police detective John Anthony Hofschneider, the girl's mother told him last Thursday night that the child indicated she was not feeling well and did not go to school last Wednesday.

The mother said her daughter asked if she could go to her friend's house, which she allowed. The mother last saw her that day, Thursday, at 3pm.

Hofschneider said the girl returned to her house last Friday at 10:15am.

The Department of Public Safety issued an Amber alert early Friday morning. An Amber alert is a child abduction alert system. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HOCOG

From Page 1

lowing the passing of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, with sincerity and a willingness to do the job to his utmost ability," said Torres in a statement, adding that he believes Hocog has "done a phenomenal job and has performed a great service for the administration."

"I believe he will serve the island of Rota with the same passion he has had for over 40 year," Torres added.

According to Hocog, his vision for Rota is for it to be "self-sustaining, prosperous, and successful."

"My decision to run for the Senate is to ensure that we have a strong and effective Legislature in collaboration with the Executive Branch so that we can continue to provide more prosperity for every person who calls these islands home," he said.

Hocog added that his collaboration with Torres has made "things happen."

"…Seeing where we are today gives me the assurance that we as a Commonwealth are now in a better place for opportunity and prosperity," he said, adding that it was through his leadership in the Senate that made the casino and "other economic opportunities" happen, to make sure that "retirees continue to receive their pensions and for Rota and Tinian to benefit."

Hocog assumed Torres' previous position of lieutenant governor in late 2015, after Inos passed away. Hocog was Senate president at the time.

HANDGUN

From Page 1

constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act prohibited residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

NMI District Courts Chief Judge Ramon V. Manglona later ruled in favor of Radich, prompting the Legislature to amend its laws to follow the U.S. Constitution's 2nd Amendment, or the right to bear arms, which Mangloña said applies to the CNMI.

If the condition of H.B. 20-34, now Public Law 20-27, is satisfied, it effectively bans CNMI residents from possessing handguns once again. However, with no active efforts to have the federal court's ruling in *Radich v. Guerrero* vacated or overturned, it appears the new law will be moot.

According to a statement from the Torres administration, the recent mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, is a "reminder of how fragile life is and how vulnerable people are when guns are in the hands of an evil human being."

"The shooting happened in a church, a place where people are supposed to feel safe and pray for a better life and a better community for their children and loved ones. The victims' ages ranged from 18 months to 77 years old. A young child never got a chance to experience the beauty of life itself. I pray that we never have to go through something like that here, and this collective commitment by the administration and the Legislature will go on to ensure that for every person who calls these islands home," Torres said in the statement.

According to H.B. 20-34, the Legislature "strongly disagrees" with the ruling in the *Radich v. Guerrero* case and that it "disputes its premise that the Covenant extends the *Heller* and *McDonald* decisions to the CNMI and is hopeful that it will be reviewed and overturned on appeal and the former law returned to force."

According to Torres' transmittal letter to the Legislature, he signed the bill as an "embodiment of this administration's commitment to ensuring the safety of all citizens and residents of our great Commonwealth."

"In just the past few years, our nation has been plagued with gun-related violence and death, exceeding any other developing country in the world. Just last month, 58 innocent people lost their lives at a Las Vegas concert at the hands of a mass shooter. Another 546 innocent people who were present at the event suffered gun-related injuries. And while the Commonwealth mourns with our fellow countrymen following the news of these tragedies, we are fortunate enough to have experienced only a small fraction of gun-associated casualties on Commonwealth soil. Therefore, it is this administration's top priority to execute all the necessary safeguards to prevent these tragic occurrences from happening within our islands. It is my strong belief that H.B. 20-34 will play a key role in accomplishing this important objective," said the Torres statement.

"Thus, justifiably, the revival of the handgun prohibition…is in better accord with the wishes of the Commonwealth people. Our unique handgun restriction law, since its implementation, has remained an effective preventive measure for controlling gun-related violence throughout our islands. Accordingly, it is imperative that this measure be preserved. For these reasons, I stand with the community in extending my full support of this critical piece of legislation," he said, adding that the CNMI has first-hand experience of the destruction firearms may bring due to the CNMI's "war-ridden past."

EPA

From Page 1

ozone standards," Pruitt told Torres.

"Improved air quality is a shared goal and together, we have made considerable progress to reduce ozone levels throughout the country. As a testament to cooperative federalism, monitored levels of ozone have dropped 22 percent since 1990. Increasingly important is the recognition of and improved understanding regarding external elements that can impact a state's ability to achieve compliance, including background ozone, international transport and exceptional events," Pruitt added.

He noted that the agency intends to give appropriate consideration to many factors during continual conversations with Torres and the CNMI government on the 2015 ozone standard.

"I appreciate the information already provided and look forward to continued engagement on this important issue," Pruitt added.

Torres said this is very welcome news for the Northern Mariana.

"This designation from the EPA is very welcoming and is a reminder of our continual commitment to making sure we conserve and protect our unique environment, while we update our infrastructure responsibly for our economy. Living here, we all know the Marianas is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and making sure we continue to be great stewards is fundamentally a part of who we are as a people. I look forward to continuing to work with EPA, our hardworking staff at [the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality] and [Department of Lands and Natural Resources], and all our agencies and community members working together for our environment," Torres said. ***(PR)***

XTRA

From Page 1

president & CEO Frank J. Visconti to employees in letter dated Nov. 11.

"In October 2106, XTRA Airways was pursued by Dream Pacific Aviation Services HK Ltd. to provide passenger charter services between Saipan and China. Though the program took far longer to develop than Dream Pacific had projected, XTRA Airways executed a contract to operate a 737-800 series aircraft on behalf of Dream Pacific," the letter stated.

In March 2017, a subsequent contract for a second aircraft to be also be based on Saipan was initiated. However, Dream Pacific did not honor the terms of the agreement, according to Visconti.

Be that as it may, Nolte assures the public that discussions are currently ongoing "to find a viable solution."

Kilili: Unlimited H visas safe

Intervention by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the House/Senate agreement on the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act has kept safe the unlimited access to H visas available to Northern Marianas' businesses.

The agreement, released on Friday, keeps intact the provision that exempts the Northern Marianas from the cap on the number of H visas for temporary foreign workers that applies elsewhere in the U.S.

In 2014, Sablan included an extension of this Marianas' exemption for an additional five years in Public Law 113-235.

"Whether through technical error or intentionally, the Senate version of the 2018 NDAA left out the words 'or to the Commonwealth' in a provision that addressed the military's need for labor on Guam," Sablan explained. "So we had to make sure that when the House and Senate reconciled their respective versions of the annual defense bill, those four words remained in place in existing law.

"And we were successful. The Northern Marianas continues to have unlimited access to H visas."

H visas are used for temporary and seasonal workers in various categories, including professional occupations, agriculture, or construction.

In Guam, the U.S. has long relied on contractors, who use H-2B visas to hire foreign workers for construction of military projects. Recently, however, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has been rejecting applications from Guam employers for renewal of these H-2B visa holders.

In response, the 2018 NDAA creates a new subcategory of the H-2B visa that allows for up to 4,000 foreign workers in Guam for services or labor directly associated with the ongoing military buildup.

The workers may also be used by military contractors in the Northern Marianas, if and when the current exemption from the cap on H visas expires in 2019 and, only if the Commonwealth government reaches an agreement with the U.S. military on terms of the buildup in the Northern Marianas.

"I am very grateful to the committee and congressional offices and administration officials that helped me make sure that there was no change in current law, as it applies to the Northern Marianas," Sablan said.

"Given the volume and complexity of legislation moving through Congress, having an established network of people who are alert to issues of concern to me and my constituents and who are willing and able to work with me on those issues, is invaluable." ***(PR)***

Free notary, copying services at Cash for College workshop

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about NMC's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017.

In addition to receiving help in finding money for college, workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents notarized and photocopied without charge.

The free workshop on Saipan will be held in Building A at the NMC As Terlaje campus. It will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and other scholarship programs.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process.

In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the spring 2018 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 1040, copy of 2015 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

IAO: Outreach for proposed alternative certification for local language teachers

The Indigenous Affairs Office, in coordination with the Public School System, announces its ongoing village outreach and public comment period for its proposed alternative certification for Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies instructor.

In September, officials of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Carolinian Affairs Office signed a memorandum of agreement to develop an alternative certification program for the Chamorro and Carolinian language teachers of the Public School System.

During the MOA signing, the four agencies agreed that an alternative certification program will attract interested people into education and training, help increase the number of local language teachers in public schools, and ensure that instructors are adequately proficient in Chamorro or Carolinian and have the requisite skills to effectively teach Chamorro and Carolinian.

Currently, the alternative certification requires an individual to pass the Praxis I test, have a high school diploma, and complete 24 college credits.

The proposed alternative certification, which was adopted by the CNMI Board of Education in early October, does not require an individual to pass the Praxis. It would only require an individual to have either:

- a high school diploma or equivalent, 3-24 college credits, and at least two years' work related experience; or
- high school diploma or equivalent, certification from an advisory panel appointed by the BOE, and at least three years' related content experience; or
- high school diploma or equivalent, certification from an advisory panel appointed by the BOE, and a professional portfolio in Chamorro or Carolinian content.

The remaining schedule for village meetings and public outreach is as follows:

- Nov. 14: Rota Sinapalo Youth Center (6-7 pm)
- Nov. 16: San Antonio Center (6-7 pm)
- Nov. 21: Tinian Youth Center (6-7 pm)

Submit comments to:

- Mary Lou Ada

Chairperson, CNMI Board of Education

P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950; or

- Roman M. Tudela

Resident executive, Indigenous Affairs Office

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 ***(PR)***

2017 Next Top Chef

Twelve chefs create unique appetizers during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

2017 Next Top Chef Laxmi Shrestha poses for a photo with the Top Chef committee during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Vicente Montoya, second from left, poses for a photo after being awarded third place during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kensington Resort Saipan's Joon Su Park, center, poses for a photo after being awarded second place at the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kagman High School students pose for a picture during the 2017 Next Top Chef Competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The judges of the 2017 Next Top Chef examine the presentation of appetizers during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Everest Kitchen's Laxmi Shrestha explains her final dish to the judges during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Everest Kitchen's Laxmi Shrestha is awarded the title of 2017 Next Top Chef during the 2017 Next Top Chef competition last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
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WAS $30,999
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NOW $33,399*

2012 4Runner Trail Edition
V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P
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2017 Veterans Day

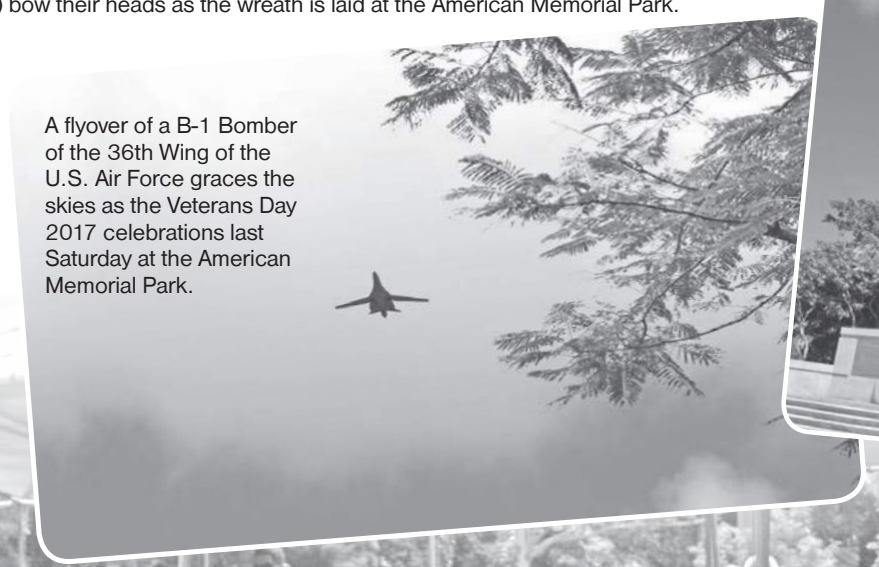
PHOTOS By ERWIN ENCINARES

U.S. District Courts for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona speaks as the keynote speaker of the 2017 Veterans Day celebration last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang shakes the hand of former senator Pete Reyes, a Vietnam War veteran, while Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) shakes the hand of Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), another Vietnam War veteran, during the Veterans Day celebrations last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang (far right), Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) (second to the right), and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres (third right) bow their heads as the wreath is laid at the American Memorial Park.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) shakes the hand of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang in recognition of his services during the Vietnam War during the Veterans Day celebrations last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.



A flyover of a B-1 Bomber of the 36th Wing of the U.S. Air Force graces the skies as the Veterans Day 2017 celebrations last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

The color guard performs flag duties during the Veterans Day celebrations last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, rightmost, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from right, listen as Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona delivers her keynote speech at the 2017 Veterans Day celebration last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Tinian holds Veterans Day rites

The Tinian municipality, led by the municipal government of Tinian and Aguiguan, held its own Veterans Day ceremony at the island's Veterans Memorial Park last Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 10am.

The ceremony was opened by a parade of the Tinian Junior/High School JROTC led by 1Sgt. Jose T. King, the color guard and its commander, cadet CSM Lisa Nicole Clamor, and battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Michelle Quichocho.

The master of ceremony was Jose P. Kiyoshi, a veteran himself of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The national anthem was led by three JROTC cadets: 2Lt. Crizia Rodriguez, Capt. Jovilyn Ancheta, and MSG Isa Rae Dela Cruz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas joins other municipal officials and the public for the Veterans Day ceremony at the island's Veterans Memorial Park last Saturday, Nov. 11.

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, who delivered the welcoming remarks, said that Tinian itself is a veteran community. "Each of us is connected to at least one veteran—whether it is through family, friendship or as colleagues."

The keynote speaker was U.S. Navy Capt. Jeffrey Grimes, the chief of staff for Joint Region Marianas, who spoke on behalf of Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, the commander for Joint Region Marianas; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas; and U.S. Pacific Command, senior military official Guam, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau.

"Here I stand today to say thank you and to pay honor to the men and women who came before me and those who continue to serve, and to those in the future. Thank you to all those brave and selfless warriors who took the same oath that we take today," Grimes said.

In her closing remarks, Tania Marie Mendiola of the CNMI Military & Veterans Affairs Office on Tinian, said: "Today, you serve the community as a teacher, a government employee, but most importantly a hero and inspiration to our children. You may not wear a cape like Superman, but in those little notes hanging from the students of Tinian Elementary School, you are all their heroes."

The Tinian Veterans Memorial Park was decorated with pieces of paper that have been cut into hats and heart shapes and colored and written on by students of the Tinian Elementary School.

In one of those hearts, a fifth-grader, Bernadette Fleming, wrote: "Dear veterans, I am very thankful for you to serve and even risk your lives for us. You are the reason why we are alive! We love and appreciate you." ***(PR)***

The 38th Japan Autumn Festival in Guam

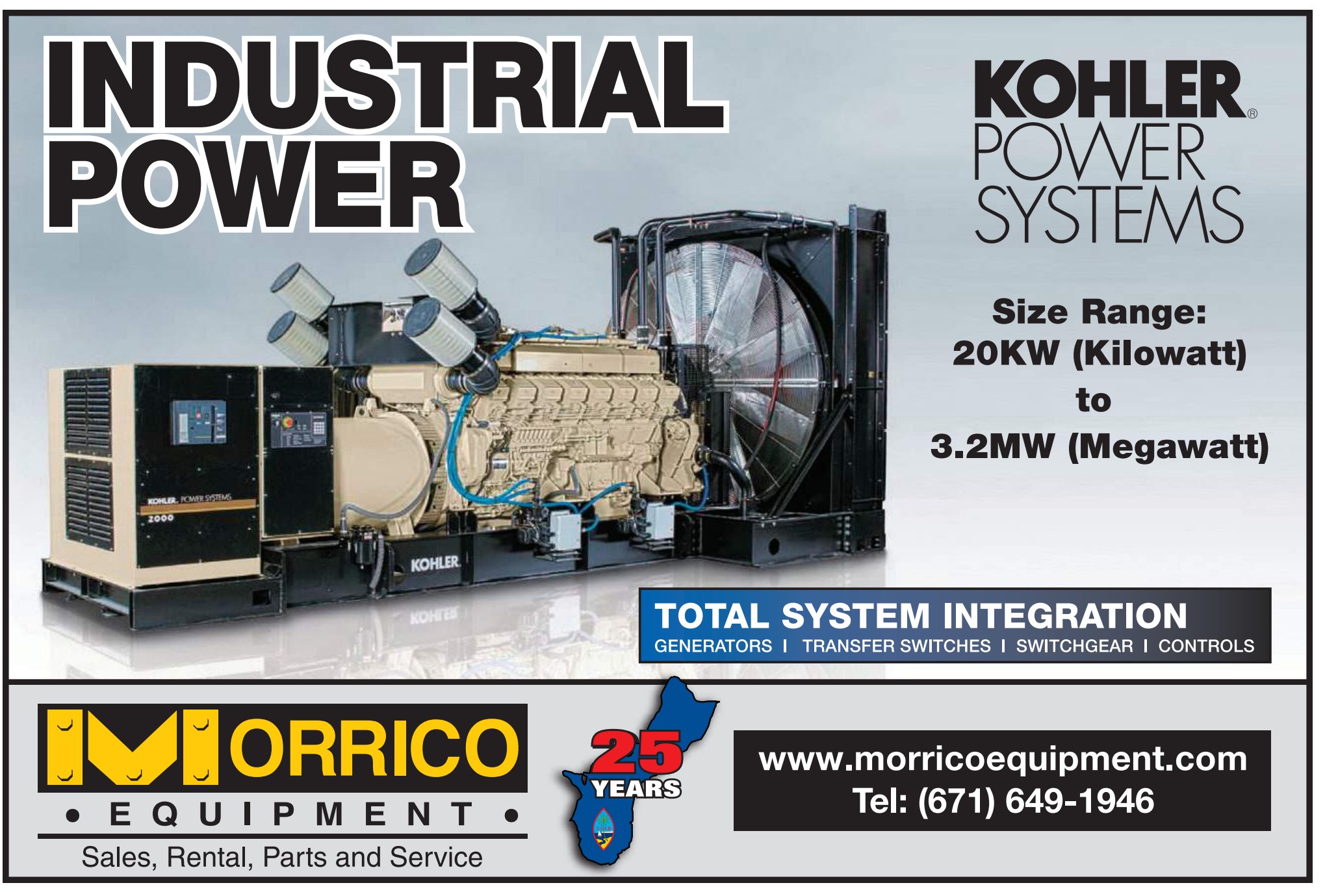
The 38th Japan Autumn Festival will be celebrated in Guam on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, from 2pm to 9pm at the Governor Joseph Beach Park (Ypao Park).

Parking will be available across St. Antony Church with free shuttle services starting at 1:30pm. The last shuttle will leave Ypao Park at 10:15pm. Accessible parking will also available at the Hilton entrance, entering from the right side gate to the lower parking near the amphitheater.

Booklets of 10 tickets are being sold until Nov. 17 first floor of Pia Marine. Tokyo Mart in Tamuning will begin selling tickets from Nov. 14 to Nov. 17. Tickets will also be available at the event ticket booths on the day of event.

The Japan Autumn Festival ("Akimatsuri") began in 1977 in a hotel parking lot owned by Japanese individuals and moved to its current site at Ypao Park in 1983. Akimatsuri is now enjoyed by an audience of 30,000 people.

With the support of more than 90 corporations and organizations, the Japan Autumn Festival will offer over 40 stalls of food, drinks, and fun-filled games as well as the Mikoshi Parade and variety of Japanese and local



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 226

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Military must help to deny guns to domestic abusers

America's extraordinary gun violence is enabled by a lack of both laws and responsibility. In a small but significant way, bipartisan legislation proposed by Sens. Jeff Flake and Martin Heinrich seeks to address both failings.

A record of domestic violence is a frequent denominator in cases of gun violence. About 50 U.S. women are shot dead each month by an intimate partner. More than 4 million women say they have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.

The man who killed 26 and injured 20 last weekend at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, had been court-martialed in 2012, while he was in the U.S. Air Force, on charges of assault on his wife and stepson. A spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety said a "domestic situation" was also at the root of the church massacre.

This conviction should have prevented the killer from purchasing several guns he acquired, including a semi-automatic rifle used in the church massacre, from licensed dealers. Yet the Air Force acknowledged this week that it had failed to enter the man's name into a federal database used for instant background checks of firearm purchasers.

The problem goes beyond a single instance of incompetence. The military has often failed to report criminal records as required. Many states, whose participation in the background-check system is voluntary, also fail to report key records of drug abuse, mental health or felony convictions that would prohibit a firearm purchase.

Background checks are still the best way to keep guns away from dangerous people, which is why safety advocates must continue to push to close the private gun sale loophole and to improve sloppy reporting to the background-check databases by all levels of government.

The bill from Flake, an Arizona Republican, and Heinrich, a New Mexico Democrat, is a step in the right direction. It would require the military both to identify cases of domestic violence and to promptly submit conviction information to the criminal background database. To make sure the system is working, and supervised, the bill would also require annual reports to Congress.

The Pentagon's failure may be a remnant of an era when domestic violence wasn't taken seriously. Or it may simply be more evidence that nonchalance about guns makes gun violence more likely. Times, and attitudes, have changed about domestic violence. This Senate bill will help move the law, and the nation, to a more responsible position on gun violence as well.

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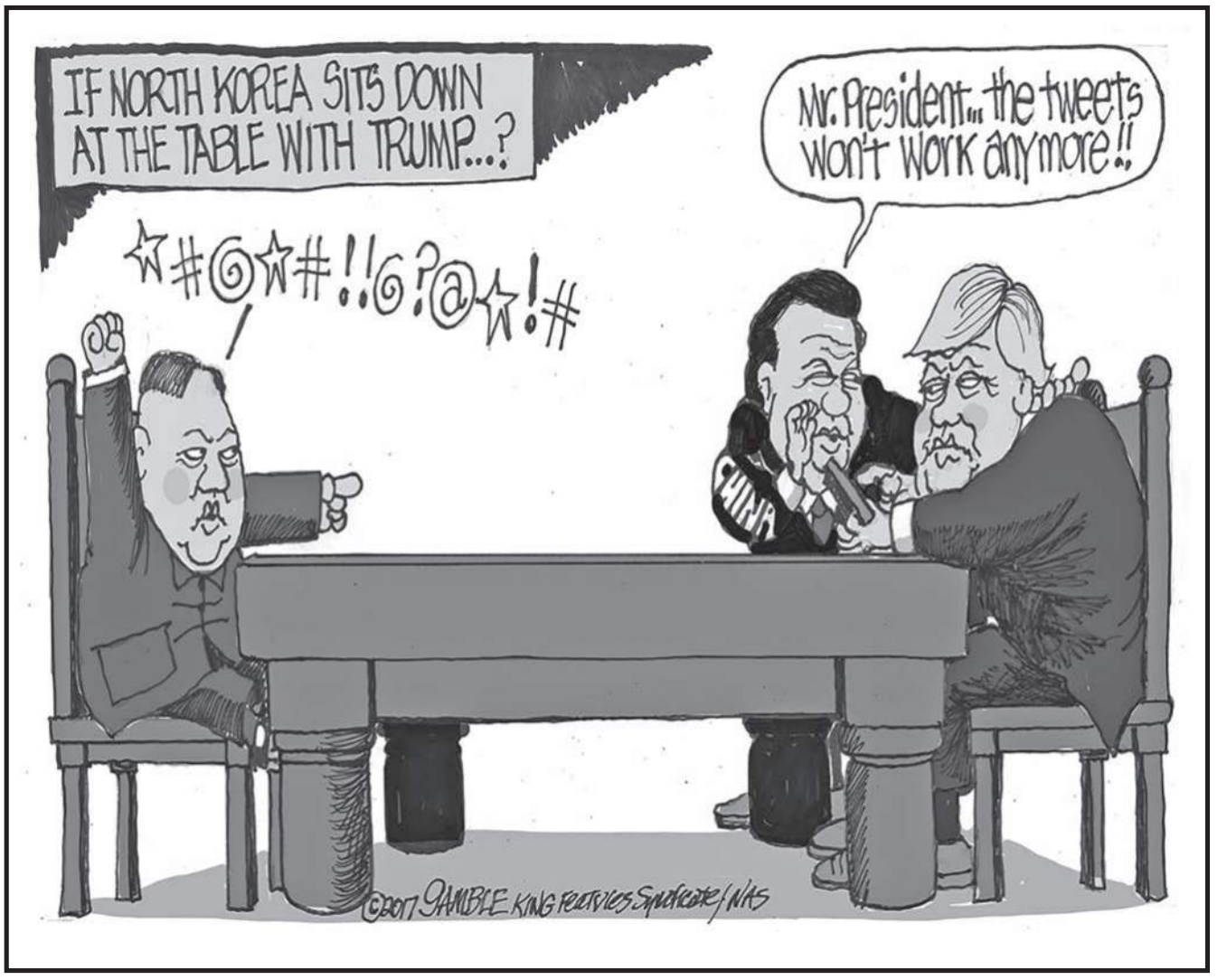
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Mr. President... the tweets won't work anymore!!
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The fairy godmother conundrum

By AMY KOSS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It was more than 100 degrees. I didn't eat breakfast, slept poorly the night before, and nearly passed out at the Brewery Art Walk. A stranger came to my aid. She brought me water and held ice to the back of my neck. She murmured encouraging words and stayed at my side until my husband arrived. I acutely regretted my lack of magic powers. I wanted to be her fairy godmother and, with the sparkly ping of my magic wand, make all her dreams come true.

Alas, I have no magic other than good intentions and, of course, that other magic power: money. It would've been tacky to dig a crumpled $10 bill and a handful of change out of my purse to give to my good Samaritan, wouldn't it? But a $1,000 bill would've been nice. Do $1,000 bills even exist?

Ah to be rich.

We always feel that other people, wealthier than us or luckier or less encumbered by dependents, are in a much better position to be generous than we are. Take, for instance, the creep building the monstrous mansion behind my house. I'm sure he thinks he's a hell of a guy, kinder and more generous than strictly necessary with his underlings, his lazy relatives and his church.

» I like to imagine I'd be much more generous, if I only had more to spare

He originally designed his monster house with an eight-car garage to accommodate his snazzy vehicle collection, but he has since downsized the car park in deference to neighborhood complaints. The master bedroom, however, will still be 1,200 square feet, and the house itself, 6,000 or 8,000 square feet, I can't remember which (and does that include the pool house?).

He's free to do as he wishes with his money and the land he bought, even if what he's building looks like a mini-mall and has wiped out what used to be four lots of trees and deer and butterflies. I assume he picked our modest neighborhood to construct his behemoth so he can look like a lord among serfs. And that too, is his right. But now that his garage will fit just six cars, maybe he could sell the other two and use the money to fund an elementary school lunch program, or pay the annual salary for a school librarian in his new neighborhood. He could, if he wanted to.

The mind boggles at what the rich could do, if they gave the least damn. I paged through a fashion magazine recently and was gobsmacked by the price of handbags. Actual people must pay those prices for a purse, or the purses wouldn't exist. That means there are people who think those prices are reasonable.

Of course, it's way easier to note the excesses of others and ignore our own. For example, I was taken aback by my dinner bill the other night. The tab was at the far finger-tip reach of my idea of the appropriate price for sake and sushi, but I don't find myself or my dinner companions reprehensible. I may not return to that restaurant, but I won't be advocating for it to be shuttered and the proprietor reprimanded.

I'm reminded of a joke: One guy says to another: "If you had two houses, would you give one to the poor?"

The second guy responds: "Yes, definitely."

First fellow: "If you had two cars, would you give one to the poor?"

"Sure."

Finally, the first guy asks, "If you had two shirts, would you give one to the poor?"

The second guy scoffs, "No way, that's ridiculous."

"But why?"

Answer: "Because I have two shirts!"

We think we are in the reasonable center, right? We have wiggle room in both directions, but we consider ourselves and our views to define the reasonable spot, where reasonable people stand. Anyone who bathes more than me is a clean-freak, and anyone who bathes less than me is a slob. Anyone with less money than me needs help, and anyone with more money than me should provide that help.

I know that compared with many people on Earth, I am rich enough to make strangers' dreams come true. And I'm hardly the first to sting with shame over my own comfort and unearned luck, my own two shirts. I like to imagine that I'd be infinitely more generous than I am, if only I had more to spare. I like to believe that after I bought myself a few absurd handbags at $100,000 a pop, or erected a grand garage for my fleet, I'd grant wishes at will. But I too am human.

So what did I do for that sweet stranger who took care of me last week? Did I turn a pumpkin into a carriage and have her whisked off to the ball of her choice? Not even metaphorically. I just thanked her, went home and wrote this op-ed.

Amy Koss writes young adult fiction and lives in Los Angeles. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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Trump shaking up Mideast, Asia

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may email her at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Shake, Rattle and Roll.

The title of that rock and roll oldie popped into my head as I followed President Trump's travels to South Korea and China, along with this week's stunning developments in Saudi Arabia.

The president clearly wants to shake up the region—and North Korea's Kim Jong Un—by convincing Asian leaders he's willing to use force to compel Kim to denuclearize.

Meantime, Trump is cheering this week's efforts by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to shake up the Mideast. MBS (as he's known) just solidified power at home with an unprecedented purge of princes and businessmen who might challenge him. And he seems bent on promoting an all-out regional war against Iran, involving the United States and Israel.

The prospect of new wars has definitely rattled Asian and Mideast leaders. Yet Trump clearly believes his risky roll of the dice will bring Kim and the ayatollahs to heel. But shake, rattle and roll could just as easily send both regions spinning out of control.

Let's start with Trump's North Korea challenge trip.

America's North Korea policy does need some shaking up; in the past, Pyongyang has cheated at and quit talks that offered recognition for denuclearization. "So we can't take the same failed approach as in the past, of entering into long drawn-out negotiations, without any prospect for initial steps, at least, toward denuclearization," said Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, in a recent speech on U.S. strategy to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

But McMaster's warning doesn't mean no talks at all.

The heart of Trump's policy, which underlies his trip, has been to press for more intense global sanctions on Pyongyang. And sanctions presumably aim at pushing Kim into serious negotiations.

"We call on every nation, including China and Russia, to fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions ... and sever all ties of trade and technology," Trump said in a careful speech in Seoul, in which he stayed on script. He also refrained from tweet-goading Kim while he was in Japan and South Korea, a nod to their nervous leaders.

Yet, due to Trump's previous contradictory tweets and statements, Asian leaders are still unsure of what the president wants or means.

Only last month, the president famously tweeted that direct talks with North Korea were a "waste of time," even as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was pursuing a back channel to Pyongyang. Trump refused to recant that tweet when pressed by reporters in Seoul.

So it's unclear whether the president wants talks. Or whether he would require North Korea to substantially roll back its nuclear program before coming to the table—a nonstarter. Indeed, the heart of Trump's speech in Seoul seemed to advocate regime change in Pyongyang, which virtually guarantees that the paranoid Kim will never bargain and will continue to test.

Unless the president clarifies his view of talks, he could find himself boxed into a situation where his only option is to attack North Korea. Such a war would cause hundreds of thousands of casualties and be opposed by Russia, China, South Korea, and Japan.

Meantime, as Trump traverses Asia, the Saudi crown prince has rattled his region, arresting scores of princes and businessmen, allegedly for corruption, while intensifying Sunni Saudi Arabia's confrontation with Shiite Iran.

"I have great confidence in King Salman (MBS's father) and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, they know exactly what they are doing," Trump tweeted on Monday.

Clearly the Saudi prince's move came as no surprise to Trump, who has aligned himself closely with the kingdom. First son-in-law Jared Kushner has become a close friend of MBS and recently made an unannounced four-day visit.

But, in their eagerness to shake up U.S. policy toward Iran, and confront Tehran's expanding influence in the region, Trump and Kushner have overestimated what the young Saudi leader can do.

As with North Korea, there is reason to revise U.S. policy in the region, where Iran and Russia are the winners after the defeat of the Islamic State. Expanding Iranian influence in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon will keep the region boiling, encourage the rise of new Sunni jihadis, and threaten Israel.

Yet any strategy to curb Tehran needs to be careful and coordinated. Given Iran's proxy forces in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, a direct military confrontation is a losing proposition.

Already, MBS has dragged the United States (with drones, advisers, and massive weapons sales to Riyadh) into a Saudi quagmire in Yemen against Iranian-backed Shiite tribal fighters, the Houthis. His engineering the removal of the Sunni prime minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, could provoke a new civil war in Lebanon, or drag Israel into a premature war with Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters.

Trump and Kushner are heedlessly backing a prince who is a poor match for Tehran.

And if Trump decides to withdraw from the nuclear accord with Tehran, Iran can take revenge by encouraging its proxies to strike back at U.S. and Saudi interests and troops in the region. (The Houthis just fired a missile at Riyadh.)

Shaking up Mideast and Asian complacency might make sense if the White House had a comprehensive strategy to follow its threats and sanctions. No such strategy is visible, but let's hope one emerges and Trump doesn't undercut it. Otherwise both regions face the prospect of war.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The alarming increase in criminal activity

The CNMI government has to make a serious and concerted effort to figure out how to counteract the increase in the number of crimes taking place in the Commonwealth over the past several years. The government has to study and analyze what is causing the upward spike in the number of crimes in our community. It has to figure out soon how to resolve this alarming problem because it is quickly making the CNMI an unsafe community.

If CNMI law enforcement officials and personnel need to procure additional professional help and assistance from other law enforcement agencies and experts, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, let us do so immediately. Our law enforcement agencies, particularly the CNMI Department of Public Safety, must have the basic and advanced training, skills, and expertise, as well as the criminal investigative tools and equipment needed to address the increase in crimes: homicide, kidnapping, burglary, robbery and grand theft; otherwise, it looks like the criminals in the Commonwealth will continue to have a field day burglarizing homes, robbing business establishments, pushing crystal meth and other harmful opioids, and kidnapping and killing people at night. As Tina Sablan noted recently, we should all be alarmed with the state of affairs in the area of criminal enforcement. It seems that DPS is at a loss as to what to do.

Although the new casino industry has brought to the Commonwealth much-needed revenue to help provide for essential public service, we need to realize that there is a corresponding negative downside with its introduction. We should know that this industry has adverse side effects. Loss of funds, particularly for those addicted to gambling, can be very devastating to the individual and his family. Addicted gamblers sometimes steal or rob in order to feed their addiction. Then there are crimes closely associated with gambling. They include the sale and purchase of opioids, crystal meth and other illegal drugs, prostitution and homicides, not to mention money laundering and other federal crimes.

This brief letter wishes to point out the increasing crime epidemic in our community and the need to address it now. It raises a number of basic questions. First, is the Commonwealth government presently equipped to deal with the increase in the number of crimes taking place in the Commonwealth and the sophisticated nature of the crimes being committed? Second, do our law enforcement officers have the necessary training and tools (such as for fingerprint gathering and analysis, ballistics analysis, etc.) to effectively fight the increasingly sophisticated crimes taking place in the CNMI? Third, do our law enforcement leaders have the expertise, leadership skills and determination (including independence from our political leaders) to investigate and try to resolve the various crimes being committed in the CNMI? All of these questions (and more) must be answered positively, if we are to effectively address, tackle, and reduce the number of crimes taking place in the Commonwealth today.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
As Gonno, Saipan

CW issue and the US military

Given the military's push for Marines slated to be stationed in Guam to conduct highly destructive live-fire training on Tinian and Pågan, it smells fishy when a high-ranking military official responsible for implementing that basing decision offers the military's help on the CNMI's workforce issues (http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/99739-dod-to-help-nmi-address-workforce-issues). One has to wonder why the military would insert itself in this issue.

To the extent that the military's offer simply reflects an understanding that keeping our islands' economy stable and strong promotes national security, we appreciate the assistance.

If, however, the military is trying to leverage its cooperation on the CW issue into concessions from CNMI officials who have opposed the military's proposed buildup, we urge our leaders to stand firm and reject any attempts to hold our economy hostage. Sacrificing our homelands on Tinian and Pågan to destruction under the military's bombs, artillery, and mortars is not worth 30 pieces of silver.

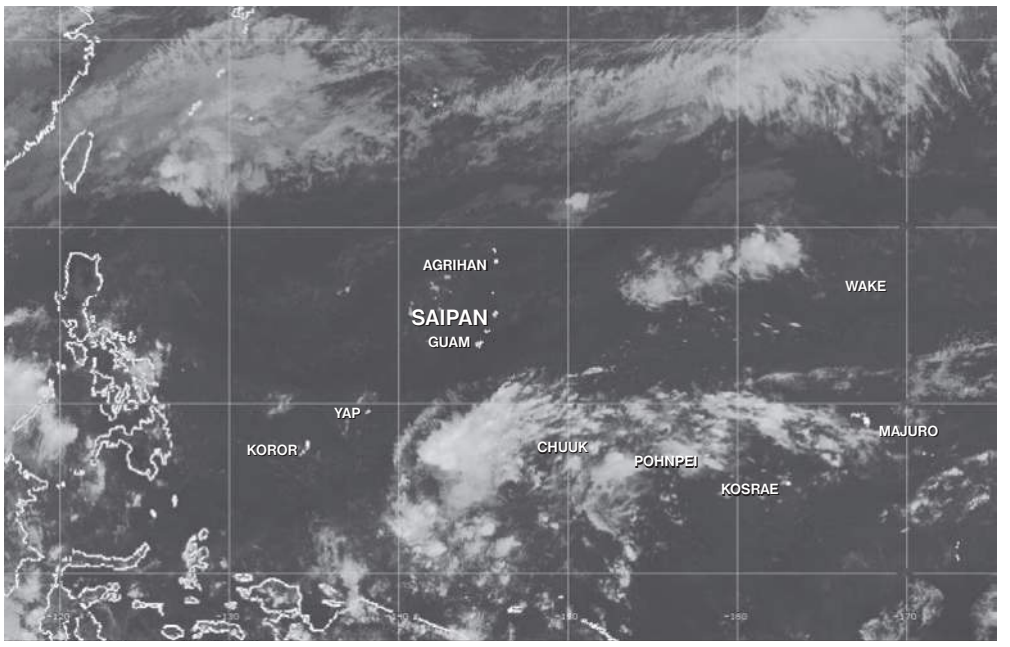
Tinian Women Association
Guardians of Gani
PaganWatch

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 2:45 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry trade wind pattern continues across the Marianas this morning and will likely continue through Tuesday afternoon. Only a few light showers are seen in the area. A weak trade-wind disturbance is then expected to move through to the south of Guam, bringing a bit of an increase in showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms to the Marianas Tuesday night through Wednesday night, mainly over Guam and Rota. By Thursday morning, the dry pattern will return to the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Cloudy	54° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	49° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	50° / 41°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	63° / 39°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Cloudy	59° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.49
10:31 AM	LOW TIDE	0.46
4:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
11:41 PM	LOW TIDE	0.40

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:32 am	3:01 pm	-
Wednesday	3:23 am	3:41 pm	-
Thursday	4:12 am	4:21 pm	-
Friday	5:02 am	5:02 pm	-
Saturday	5:51 am	5:43 pm	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Hong Kong, Southeast Asian nations sign free-trade pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hong Kong signed a free-trade agreement and an investment deal Sunday with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in pacts that it said are a vote against protectionism elsewhere.

ASEAN leaders attend an opening session of the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines Monday, Nov. 13, 2017. AP

ASEAN officials said the free-trade agreement they signed with Hong Kong in Manila is the sixth such deal forged by the 10-nation bloc after concluding similar pacts with China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The Philippines is hosting an annual summit of ASEAN heads of state with Asian and Western leaders that opens Monday.

Hong Kong Commerce Secretary Edward Yau Tang-wah said the new free-trade accord is "a loud and clear vote from all of us here for freer and more open trade" amid protectionist tendencies in other parts of the world.

He said ASEAN is Hong Kong's second-largest merchandise trading partner and fourth-largest partner in services trade "but the best is yet to come," with the agreements expected to fuel new investment opportunities and boost trade flows.

Philippine Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, this year's chairman of the ASEAN Economic Ministers, said the signing of the two agreements marks the commitment toward shared prosperity and inclusive growth in the region.

"We send a strong message to the world of our outward oriented drive and economic resolve toward cooperation," he said.

Open office design stymies worker who needs quiet

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: After an office renovation, all the employees in my department were moved to a new workspace. Previously, we were spread across two floors, working in cubicles with tall sound-absorbing dividers. Now, however, we are crammed side-by-side into a small open area where everyone is constantly staring at everyone else.

As an introvert, I require a certain amount of quiet to concentrate, so this chaotic environment makes it impossible to think. Co-workers keep walking by, phones are constantly ringing, and people converse in loud voices. With all these distractions, there's no way that I can do my best work.

I thought about using some plants for privacy, but we've been told not to put anything on our desks which might block our view of other employees. How can I survive in this place?

A: I believe open office designs are the work of the devil. Managers typically implement this configuration to save money on office fixtures or to promote "teamwork". While the former motive may be valid, removing all privacy is hardly the best way to foster collaboration.

In reality, packing people together in an open space frequently has the opposite effect. Forced interaction increases irritation, distractions interfere with productive discussions, overstimulation creates stress, and many folks have difficulty concentrating.

But since your bosses have recently invested extensive time and effort in creating this bullpen, they aren't likely to change their opinions soon. So for now, you might as well do your best to cope.

Try using earbuds to mask noise with soothing music. Eye contact encourages conversation, so stay focused on your work when people walk by. If someone initiates an unwelcome chat, politely explain that you have deadlines to meet.

Seek out quiet areas where you can go to collect your thoughts. If you need permission to leave your desk, explain how doing so will improve work results. Saying "I need privacy" sounds self-centered, but stating "This report will be done twice as fast if I can use the conference room" puts the emphasis on business issues.

Based on their prohibition of privacy devices, your managers are clearly enamored with the notion of constant interaction. But as the newness wears off, perhaps they will realize that continuous availability is not the same as teamwork.

Q: After I joined this company two months ago, several people told me that one executive regularly smokes in the bathroom. I didn't believe them until I actually saw him coming out of a smoke-filled stall. When I mentioned this to my boss, he suggested that I go to human resources. However, I'm not sure if that's a good idea. What do you think?

A: Although this executive smoker is definitely in the wrong, you are wise to weigh the risk before deciding to turn him in. Approaching HR as a lone crusader is probably not the best move, because there's no guarantee that your identity will remain confidential.

Instead, invite the colleagues who shared this information to join you in a group effort. If they appear reluctant, their longer experience with this company may have taught them that such interventions can be hazardous.

Uncertainty clouds plans for Venezuela's financial recovery

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Cash-strapped Venezuela will launch into a discussion Monday with foreign investors about rescuing itself from crushing debt incurred during better times for the oil-rich country.

Investors eager to be paid back, however, worry that confusion clouds the meeting.

It's nearly impossible for Americans to enter Venezuela on short notice, the government has provided them with no blueprint as a starting point and officials heading the talks have been sanctioned by the Trump administration, making it illegal for Americans to negotiate with them.

President Nicolas Maduro invited investors to Caracas a little more than a week ago while announcing his goal of renegotiating a foreign debt that he said has become impossible to repay because of a U.S.-led financial "blockade" of the socialist-run country.

On the eve of the meeting Maduro tried to send a reassuring message that Venezuela will avoid default despite its mounting financial woes. He pointed out that since taking office in 2013, Venezuela has made more than $70 billion in debt payments, including more than $2 billion in the past month.

"Our strategy is to renegotiate and refinance all the debt," Maduro said in a televised address Sunday in which he also announced a deal to refinance its debt with ally Russia. "Let all creditors be clear."

As Venezuela spent heavily on social programs under the late President Hugo Chavez, a time when global oil prices soared, its debt skyrocketed to over $120 billion, about half of which is in the form of dollar-denominated bonds. The drop in crude prices has ravaged the country that sits atop the world's largest oil reserves, leading to widespread shortages amid triple-digit inflation.

Strained relations between Venezuela and the United States are compounding the situation.

The Trump administration has sanctioned a growing list of Venezuelan officials, including the government's top two debt negotiators, Economy Minister Simon Zerpa and Vice President Tareck El Aissami, who is accused of being a major drug trafficker. Washington has also barred U.S. companies from lending new money to Venezuela because of human rights abuses committed during months of anti-government protests and Maduro's efforts to squash the opposition.

But in a sign the Trump administration might be willing to soften its stance, the Treasury Department said last week that it would consider allowing Americans to deal in new debt if any restructuring plan was backed by Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress, whose authority has been steadfastly ignored by Maduro's government.

In his national address, Maduro said 414 investors had confirmed their attendance, but Russ Dallen, managing partner of Caracas Capital Markets, said he expected far fewer to show up.

By the end of Friday's workday, Dallen said, one of several U.S. investors he represents told him he couldn't get a visa on such short notice and another reported planning to send an intern, citing the lack of information.

"You'd think they'd put it on the table and let you study it if there was some kind of proposal," Dallen said. "There's nothing. Just crickets."

Dallen said Monday is also expected to be a pivotal day as three bonds come due and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, a group representing the derivatives industry, meets to discuss Venezuela's debt situation. Investors want to know whether a late $1.1 billion debt payment on state-run oil giant PDVSA bonds this month constituted a "credit event" that could trigger the payment of so-called credit default swaps and prompt legal action by bondholders.

Venezuela's state power company, Corpoelec, last week was declared in default on a $650 million bond after a 30-day grace period to make an interest payment expired.

Nation

Texas town holds 1st Sunday service since church attack

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP)—Hundreds of mourners crowded into the tiny town of Sutherland Springs for the first Sunday service since a gunman stormed the First Baptist Church a week earlier, killing more than two dozen people in the worst mass shooting in Texas history.

After an emotional sermon held outdoors under a massive white tent, congregants and the public were invited to return to the church for the first time since the tragedy. A chilling memorial set up inside the church included 26 white chairs—including one for the unborn baby of a victim who was pregnant—bearing each victim's name or nickname painted in gold.

Pastor Frank Pomeroy shared his personal heartache and a message that the community bound together by faith can move past the evil that attacked the church seven days earlier.

AP

A memorial for the victims of the shooting at Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church includes 26 white chairs, each painted with a cross and and rose, is displayed in the church Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

"Rather than choose darkness as that young man did that day, we choose life," Pomeroy said during the service, his voice cracking as he spoke about his 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle, who was among those killed in the Nov. 5 rampage.

"I know everyone who gave their life that day," he said, pausing to gather himself. "Some of whom were my best friends and my daughter." He wiped his eyes, then added, "I guarantee they are dancing with Jesus today."

Initially, the church had planned to hold Sunday's service at an adjacent community center, which can accommodate a few dozen people. But when organizers realized hundreds planned to attend, the service was moved to a massive white tent erected in a baseball field.

So many people turned up that the tent's side flaps had to be opened for an overflow crowd so that those who couldn't get a seat could see and hear what was going on inside. Mark Collins, a previous pastor at First Baptist, said it was the largest gathering in the church's 100-year history.

The front three rows were reserved for survivors of the attack and the families of those killed. Many arrived early, as a steady rain fell on the tarp roof, offering hugs to each other and prayers.

Congregants wept during the service and a moving version of "Amazing Grace," led by three singers and a man on guitar, as the voices of hundreds sang along.

Some bowed their heads, others raised their hands and swayed as the music played, and tears streamed down their faces.

"Amazing Grace" was also played at halftime at Floresville High School at Friday night's game, in tribute to the victims.

Later Sunday, the First Baptist Church opened its doors for the first time since the shooting. The inside had been transformed into a memorial with its walls, floor and pulpit painted white.

Broken windows and ceiling tiles had been replaced and bullet holes filled. The church's pews, the carpet and all equipment had been removed. All that filled the space were the 26 white chairs, each with a red rose tied to it except for one that had a pink rose for the unborn baby.

A line of about 85 people snaked from the church entrance and curved around the block, including people who traveled from as far away as the East Coast, said Collins, the church's former pastor who has returned to help in the tragedy's aftermath.

Constructing the memorial wasn't an easy decision, he said. Some members have said they never wanted to step foot inside the site, he said, while others have said they needed to see it.

Next Sunday's service is expected to take place on the grounds of the church, likely in a makeshift structure, Collins said. Church members will have to decide whether to demolish the church, as some have said is likely, he said, but plans are also being discussed to build a new structure nearby.

The gunman, Devin Patrick Kelley, went aisle to aisle looking for victims and shot crying babies at point-blank range, according to witness accounts. The dead ranged in age from 18 months to 77 years old. About 20 people were wounded in the shooting.

Kelley died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire at the church. Investigators have said the attack appeared to stem from a domestic dispute involving Kelley and his mother-in-law, who sometimes attended services at the church but wasn't there the day of the shooting.

Investigators face big hurdles in church child abuse cases

SPINDALE, North Carolina (AP)—When Rutherford County's child protection agency seeks to investigate allegations of abuse at Word of Faith Fellowship, it runs smack into two major obstacles: a habitual lack of cooperation from church members and a court-ordered compromise that limits what can trigger an inquiry and how social workers can question minors.

Word of Faith has been investigated numerous times over the course of decades without serious consequences, in large part because church leader Jane Whaley orders congregants to lie to and mislead authorities, according to dozens of former followers interviewed by The Associated Press.

In 1995, for example, the State Bureau of Investigation interviewed Whaley, sect leaders and dozens of former members about abuse allegations. Investigators determined congregants—including children—had been mistreated, but the district attorney ultimately declined to prosecute, saying any case would be undermined by most victims' recalcitrance.

Whaley and a dozen church families sued the Rutherford County Department of Social Services in 2003, contending they were being targeted because of their religious beliefs. The agency settled the lawsuit two years later, agreeing to a list of stipulations dictating how it can investigate reports of child abuse.

Word of Faith received guarantees that abuse inquiries could no longer be solely based on objections to such core practices as "blasting," when congregants surround a church member and shriek for hours in an attempt to expel demons.

The agreement also placed limits on where social workers can interview children and barred them from asking questions about religious beliefs or practices.

And the church won the right to refuse to admit any child to its K-12 school whose parents do not consent to the use of corporal punishment.

Several experts who reviewed the stipulations at the Associated Press's request called the agreement highly unusual and spoke of a potential chilling effect on investigations.

Some of the provisions could make it "extremely difficult to protect children," said Rita Swan, recently retired as the president of Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty, which specializes in child abuse and neglect related to religious beliefs.

Colleges draw fewer foreign students but avoid crisis so far

BOSTON (AP)—International enrollments at U.S. colleges have fared better than expected this year, but many schools still fear the country's political climate, according to a national survey.

The Institute of International Education reported Monday that the number of new students coming from abroad fell by an average of 7 percent at nearly 500 colleges and universities surveyed this fall, but that the results from school to school are more mixed than many had feared.

But many schools still fear the country's political climate could drive students away.

The Institute of International Education reported Monday that the number of new students coming from abroad fell by an average of 7 percent at nearly 500 colleges and universities surveyed this fall, but that the results from school to school are more mixed than many had feared.

While 45 percent of schools saw declines in international enrollment, nearly a third said their numbers have increased since last year, the survey found. The remaining 24 percent said they saw no change.

"It's definitely a wake-up call, but by no means is it a crisis, and it does not come anywhere close to the precipitous decline and plummeting of numbers that the entire sector had been predicting," said Rajika Bhandari, head of research, policy and practice for the nonprofit group based in New York.

The White House's proposed travel bans and separate reports of violence against immigrants had fueled fears of a sharp decline in students coming from abroad. The anxiety spurred many campuses to boost their recruiting efforts, while some launched marketing campaigns meant to make foreign students feel welcome.

Despite the improved outlook, the survey found that half of the 500 colleges still worry the nation's atmosphere could discourage potential students, and 20 percent reported that the climate has already led some students to leave.

"We don't know what the trends are going to look like for next year, but for sure there are concerns," Bhandari said.

The survey offers only a preview of this year's trends and was released alongside the institute's annual "Open Doors" report, which tracks international students at 3,000 U.S. schools but lags a year behind.

The broader survey covering the last school year found that U.S. colleges hosted a record number of international students but also saw new enrollment fall 3 percent since 2015, the first decrease in at least six years.

That downturn took place before the presidential election and can be blamed on factors including the rising cost of tuition in the U.S., growing competition from schools in other countries, and political factors outside the United States, the institute's leaders said.

Asia

Trump does not publicly rebuke Duterte for drug war killings

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump, center, reacts as he does the "ASEAN-way handshake" with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, left, and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on stage during the opening ceremony at the ASEAN Summit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017, in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has sanctioned a bloody drug war that features extrajudicial killing. He called Barack Obama a "son of a whore." This week, he boasted that he murdered a man with his own hands.

All that went unmentioned in public by President Donald Trump when the leaders held talks Monday in the Philippines.

Reporters saw the beginning of the leaders' bilateral meeting in during which Trump praised Duterte's hospitality, the organization of the summit he was hosting and even Manila's weather. Trump said nothing about human rights and both leaders ignored shouted questions about the violent drug crackdown.

Breaking with his presidential predecessors, Trump has largely abandoned publicly pressing foreign leaders on human rights, instead showing a willingness to embrace international strongmen for strategic gain. He has cozied up to autocrats such as Saudi Arabia's King Salman, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And earlier in this trip to Asia he made no mention of human rights during multiple appearances in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Trump seems very comfortable with strongmen. It's not just that he won't criticize Duterte. I wouldn't be surprised if he patted him on the back," said Mike Chinoy, senior fellow at U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California, before the meeting.

Duterte's war on drugs has alarmed human rights advocates around the world who say it has allowed police officers and vigilantes to ignore due process and to take justice into their own hands. Government officials estimate that well over 3,000 people, mostly drug users and dealers, have died in the ongoing crackdown. Human rights groups believe the victim total is far higher, perhaps closer to 9,000.

"Human rights groups, I think, will be quite disappointed by the visit," said Amy Searight, director of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's unlikely that human rights or rule of law or due process are going to be topics that President Trump will raise."

Duterte has strenuously defended the violence and boasted of participating himself.

Late last year, he bragged that he personally pulled the trigger and killed three people years ago while serving as mayor of Davao City. And last week, while in Vietnam for an international summit, he said he took his first life years earlier.

"When I was a teenager, I had been in and out of jail, rumble here and there," Duterte said during a speech in Danang, where he briefly crossed paths with Trump on the sidelines of an international summit. "At the age of 16, I already killed someone."

He claimed he fatally stabbed the person "just over a look." His spokesman later tried to downplay the comment, saying, "I think it was in jest."

Trump has shown little interest in pressuring Duterte to rein in the violence, instead saluting him during a May phone call.

Rohingya boy floats on container to Bangladesh

SHAH PORIR DWIP, Bangladesh (AP)—Nabi Hussain owes his life to a yellow plastic oil container.

The 13-year-old Rohingya boy couldn't swim, and had never even seen the sea before fleeing his village in Myanmar. But he clung to the empty container and struggled across the water with it for about 2.5 miles, all the way to Bangladesh.

Rohingya Muslims escaping the violence in their homeland of Myanmar are now so desperate that some are trying to swim to safety in neighboring Bangladesh. In just a week, more than three dozen boys and young men used cooking oil containers like life rafts to swim across the mouth of the Naf River and wash up ashore in Shah Porir Dwip, a fishing town and cattle trade spot.

"I was so scared of dying," said Nabi, a lanky boy in a striped polo shirt and checkered dhoti. "I thought it was going to be my last day."

Although Rohingya Muslims have lived in Myanmar for decades, the country's Buddhist majority still sees them as invaders from Bangladesh. The government denies them basic rights, and the United Nations has called them the most persecuted minority in the world. Just since August, after their homes were torched by Buddhist mobs and soldiers, more than 600,000 Rohingya have risked the trip to Bangladesh.

"We had a lot of suffering, so we thought drowning in the water was a better option," said Kamal Hussain, 18, who also swam to Bangladesh with an oil container.

Nabi knows almost no one in this new country, and his parents back in Myanmar don't know that he is alive. He doesn't smile and rarely maintains eye contact.

Nabi grew up in the mountains of Myanmar, the fourth of nine children of a farmer who grows paan, the betel leaf used as chewing tobacco. He never went to school.

The trouble started two months ago when Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces. The Myanmar military responded with a brutal crackdown, killing men, raping women and burning homes and property. The last Nabi saw of his village, all the homes were on fire.

Nabi's family fled, heading toward the coast, passing dead bodies. But when they arrived at the coast with a flood of other Rohingya refugees, they had no money for a boat and a smuggler.

Every day, there was less food. So after four days, Nabi told his parents he wanted to swim the delta to reach the thin line of land he could see in the distance—Shah Porir Dwip.

His parents didn't want him to go. One of his older brothers had left for Bangladesh two months ago, and they had no idea what had happened to him. They knew the strong currents could carry Nabi into the ocean.

Eventually, though, they agreed, on the condition that he not go alone. So on the afternoon of Nov. 3, Nabi joined a group of 23 other young men, and his family came to see him off.

"Please keep me in your prayers," he told his mother, while everyone around him wept.

Nabi and the others strapped the cooking oil containers to their chests as floats, and stepped into the water just as the current started to shift toward Bangladesh. The men stayed in groups of three, tied together with ropes. Nabi was in the middle, because he was young and didn't know how to swim.

His Asia trip winding down, Trump meets with allies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Donald Trump is winding down his lengthy Asia trip with an international summit and a series of meetings with Pacific Rim allies, including his host in the Philippines who is overseeing a bloody drug war.

Trump jointly met Monday with Australian Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull, with whom he had a contentious phone call last winter, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who hosted the president in Tokyo earlier in the trip. Trump raved about his accomplishments on his five-nation journey, including on trade and North Korea, but said he would wait until his return to Washington on Wednesday to elaborate with a "major statement."

"We've made some very big steps with regard to trade - far bigger than anything you know," Trump told reporters at the beginning of the meeting in Manila, touting business deals forged between U.S. and foreign companies.

"We've made a lot of big progress on trade. We have deficits with almost everybody. Those deficits are going to be cut very quickly and very substantially," Trump said.

"Except us," Turnbull chimed in, to laughs.

"You're the only one," Trump responded. Trump also the trip had been "very fruitful" for the United States and pointed to the warm welcomes he had received in capitals like Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing.

"It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever received," Trump said. "And that really is a sigh of respect, perhaps for me a little, but really for our county. And I'm really proud of that."

The opening ceremonies of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations conference began with pageantry, including a group photo of the leaders and the summit's traditional handshake. That cross-body handshake, during which each leader shakes the opposite hands of those next to him or her, briefly baffled Trump, who then laughed as he figured out where to place his arms.

One of the leaders on his flank: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has overseen a bloody drug war that has featured extrajudicial killings. The two men held longer, formal talks on Monday and White House aides signaled that Trump was not expected to publicly bring up human rights in their discussions.

During brief remarks to reporters, Trump said he and Duterte have "had a great relationship" but avoided questions on whether he'd raise human rights issues.

Trump will also meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, which plays a key role in the U.S. vision of an Indo-Pacific region that attempts to de-emphasize China's influence. And he is slated to have dinner with Turnbull.

But swirling questions about Russia followed Trump halfway across the globe.

World

Powerful earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills 207 people

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A powerful earthquake shook the Iran-Iraq border late Sunday, killing 207 people and injuring 1,686 in the mountainous region of Iran alone, Iranian state media said.

The Baghdad government did not immediately give word on casualties in that country, though Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued a directive for the country's civil defense teams and "related institutions" to respond to the natural disaster.

The magnitude 7.3 quake was centered 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the most recent measurements from the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck at a depth of 23.2 kilometers (14.4 miles), a shallow depth that can have broader damage. Magnitude 7 earthquakes on their own are capable of widespread, heavy damage.

The quake was felt as far west as the Mediterranean coast. Its worst damage appeared to be in Iran's western Kermanshah province, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq. Residents in the rural area rely mainly on farming to make a living.

AP

In this photo provided by the Iranian Students News Agency, ISNA, destroyed buildings and a car are seen after an earthquake at the city of Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017.

Iranian social media and news agencies showed images and videos of people fleeing their homes into the night. Some 50 aftershocks followed.

Iran's state-run television reported the increase in casualties early on Monday and said rescue work was continuing overnight and would accelerate during the daytime.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences on Monday morning and urged rescuers and all government agencies to do all they could to help those affected, state media reported.

The semi-official ILNA news agency said at least 14 provinces in Iran had been affected by the earthquake.

Officials announced that schools in Kermanshah and Ilam provinces would be closed on Monday because of the temblor.

Iranian state TV also said Iraqi officials reported that at least six people dead inside Iraq, along with more than 50 people injured in Sulaymaniyah province and about 150 in the town of Khanaquin.

Iran sits on many major fault lines and is prone to near-daily quakes. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people. The last major casualty earthquake in Iran struck in East Azerbaijan province in August 2012, killing over 300 people.

Lebanon PM says he will return to seek settlement

BEIRUT (AP)—In his first TV interview since he announced his surprise resignation last weekend, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said Sunday he will return to his country from Saudi Arabia "within days" to seek a settlement with the militant group Hezbollah, his rivals in his coalition government.

Hariri, looking downcast and tired, denied he was being held against his will in the kingdom and said he was compelled to resign to save Lebanon from imminent dangers, which he didn't specify.

He held back tears at one point and repeated several times that he resigned to create a "positive shock" and draw attention to the danger of siding with Iran, Hezbollah's main patron, in regional conflicts.

"We are in the eye of the storm," Hariri said.

A political crisis has gripped Lebanon since Hariri read his televised resignation from Saudi Arabia on Nov. 4 in which he accused Iran of meddling in his country in a vicious tirade that was uncharacteristic of the usually soft-spoken 47-year old premier.

The live interview on Future TV was designed in part to dispel rumors that Hariri, who holds Lebanese and Saudi citizenship, was under house arrest by Saudi authorities who have escalated their rhetoric against Iran and Hezbollah. Many feared Saudi Arabia was dragging Lebanon into its rivalry with Iran and called for Hariri to return home to ensure he was acting of his own free will.

"I am free to travel tomorrow if I wanted to. But I have a family. I saw what happened when my father was martyred. I don't want the same thing to happen to my children," Hariri said.

His father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, was killed by a car bomb in Beirut in 2005. Hezbollah members are being tried in absentia for the killing. Saad Hariri's family lives in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Hariri sounded less belligerent in Sunday's interview than he did during the resignation announcement. He said he realizes his resignation was unconventional, adding he was ready to return to formally submit it and seek a settlement with Hezbollah.

He suggested he may be willing to withdraw it but said that would be conditional on Hezbollah committing to remaining neutral on regional conflicts, putting the onus back on the militant group.

He singled out Hezbollah's involvement in Yemen as the main cause of the kingdom's ire. Saudi Arabia has stepped up its rhetoric against Hezbollah and Iran, accusing both of supporting Shiite rebels in Yemen known as Houthis. A Saudi-led coalition has been at war with the Houthis since March 2015 in a bloody, stalemated conflict that is causing a major humanitarian disaster.

Hezbollah has also sent thousands of fighters to Lebanon's neighbor, Syria, to support the forces of Syria's President Bashar Assad.

Hariri said the unity government he formed a year ago was supposed to stick to an agreement not to interfere in regional affairs but that Hezbollah has not kept its end of the deal.

"If we want to go back on the resignation, we have to return to the policy of distancing ourselves" from regional conflicts. "I will come back to Lebanon to work. ... We can't deal with any more ambiguity in this issue. There must be a final settlement with Hezbollah on this regional aspect."

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has said Saudi Arabia has declared war on Lebanon, instead of confronting Iran. Nasrallah said Saudi Arabia was holding Hariri against his will to meddle in Lebanon's affairs.

Hariri repeatedly tried to dispel that he was forced to resign, describing his relations with the Saudi king and crown prince as amicable, almost family-like. He also said he is looking into security arrangements before returning to Lebanon, suggesting his life was in danger.

Spanish PM urges Catalans to defeat separatists at polls

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy urged voters in Catalonia on Sunday to defeat the separatists who led the region's recent drive for independence when they go to the polls in an early election next month.

Rajoy, who used previously untapped constitutional authority to call the Dec. 21 regional election, told members of his conservative Popular Party at a Barcelona hotel that "we want a massive turnout to open up a new period of normalcy" in Catalonia.

Rajoy's visit to Barcelona, Catalonia's main city, was his first to the region since he used the constitutional powers to stifle the secession push led by the regional government.

After Catalonia's Parliament voted Oct. 27 in favor of declaring independence, Rajoy responded by firing top government officials, dissolving the Parliament and ordering the early election.

Spain's Constitution says the nation is "indivisible."

"It's urgent to return a sense of normality to Catalonia and do so as soon as possible to lower the social and economic tensions," Rajoy said Sunday. "The threat of the separatists is destructive, sad and agonizing. Secessionism has created insecurity and uncertainty."

Polls show a tight race between Catalan separatists and politicians who want the region to remain a part of Spain. In Brussels on Sunday, those favoring independence for Catalonia rallied near the European Union quarter.

Rajoy's party has won three national elections since 2011, but secured less than 10 percent of the vote in Catalonia's 2015 regional election.

The Popular Party continues to poll behind several other parties in the region, including the pro-business Citizens and the Socialists, which both oppose secession.

The far-left separatist CUP party decided Sunday to participate in the December elections. The CUP is one of three pro-secession parties in the region.

Rajoy defended his decision to temporarily take over running Catalonia under a section of the Spain Constitution that allows central authorities to intervene in regions where officials act outside the law.

Catalonia's separatists, and even some moderates, have criticized the measures as heavy-handed.

"Exceptional measures can only be taken when there is no other option, and we adopted them to stop the increasing attacks to peaceful coexistence," Rajoy said.

Apart from the government takeover, 10 Catalan separatist leaders have been jailed while their roles in promoting secession are under investigation. Catalonia's deposed president and four former members of his Cabinet fled to Brussels and plan to fight extradition to Spain.

Rajoy linked the continued economic recovery of Spain, and especially Catalonia, to the removal of pro-independence parties from power.

Over 2,000 companies have relocated their headquarters from Catalonia due to fears of being cast out of the European Union's common market in the case of secession. Employment numbers also showed that Catalonia fell behind other parts of Spain in October.

"But I say that the recovery of legality and normalcy will help reactivate the economy," the prime minister said.

Focus

Myanmar's Suu Kyi now benefits from Southeast Asia's silence

By ESTHER HTUSAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—When Aung San Suu Kyi led the fight for democracy against Myanmar's despotic military rulers two decades ago, she bristled at the collective reluctance of Southeast Asian governments to intervene in her nation's plight.

In a newspaper editorial published in 1999, the former opposition leader slammed the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, saying its "policy of non-interference is just an excuse for not helping."

"In this day and age," she wrote in an editorial in Thailand's The Nation newspaper on July 13 of that year, "you cannot avoid interference in the matters of other countries."

Today, Suu Kyi leads Myanmar. And when she attends the ASEAN summit in Manila on Monday, she's likely to be counting on the bloc to keep silent while her government engages in a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims using tactics the U.N. has described as ethnic cleansing to force them to leave the Buddhist-majority country.

It's unclear whether the crisis will be on ASEAN's official agenda, although Malaysia and Indonesia are likely to bring it up in talks on the meeting's sidelines. Bangladesh, where more than 600,000 Rohingya have arrived since late August, is not part of ASEAN.

But little is expected to be done.

"ASEAN summits are not designed to actually construct policy responses to major human rights issues that affect the whole region," said David Mathieson, a former human rights researcher who is now an independent analyst based in Myanmar. "Right now, Suu Kyi's government is benefiting from ASEAN's culture of inaction."

The refugee crisis began Aug. 25 after Rohingya insurgents attacked several Myanmar police posts in northern Rakhine state. Security forces responded with brutal "clearance operations" that human rights groups say killed hundreds of people and left hundreds of Rohingya villages burned to the ground. Survivors have described arson, rape and shootings by Myanmar soldiers and Buddhist mobs for the purpose of forcing Rohinya to leave.

Myanmar has long denied them citizenship and most people insist the Rohingya are illegal immigrants though they've lived in Myanmar for generations.

Suu Kyi was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her "non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights," in the words of the Nobel committee, but has been reluctant to defend the Rohingya. In a September speech, Suu Kyi asked for patience from the international community and suggested the refugees were partly responsible for the crisis. She also tried to play down the gravity of the exodus, saying more than half of the Rohingya villages in Myanmar had not been destroyed.

Though Suu Kyi has been the de facto head of Myanmar's civilian government since her party swept elections in 2015, she is limited in her control of the country by a constitution written by the military junta that ruled Myanmar for decades. The military is in charge of the operations in northern Rakhine, and ending them is not up to Suu Kyi.

Still, her government has staunchly defended the army's actions.

When the U.N. Security Council last week called for Myanmar to "end the excessive military force and intercommunal violence that had devastated the Rohingya community," Suu Kyi's office responded that it regretted the council's statement.

In an apparent reference to China, which has backed Myanmar, the government praised Security Council members who "upheld the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries."

Non-interference has long been a bedrock of ASEAN, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Myanmar presidential spokesman Zaw Htay said he did not know what would be discussed at the summit this week, so "we can't say how we are going to respond to it."

Chandra Widya Yudha, director of the ASEAN Political and Security Cooperation at Indonesia's Foreign Ministry, told The Associated Press that his government would address the Rohingya crisis at the meeting. "We cannot keep silent because we have to help them," Yudha said.

Malaysia in particular has been critical of Myanmar's disproportionate use of force. Earlier this month, the predominantly Muslim country dissociated itself from an ASEAN statement expressing concern over the crisis because it said the statement misrepresented the reality of the situation, omitted reference to Rohingya Muslims as one of the affected communities and was not based on consensus.

Khin Zaw Win, a Yangon-based political analyst, said that both Myanmar's previous military junta and Suu Kyi's government have benefited from ASEAN's reticence, but that the bloc should "take a firmer position" on the Rohingya issue.

"It has to be taken up if ASEAN is to remain credible," he said.

Writing in The Nation in 1999, Suu Kyi said that when ASEAN invokes the principle of non-interference, it does so "not with a clear conscience."

"They are afraid that there may be some aspects of their countries that might invite criticism," she said. "Our position is that if they have problems that invite legitimate criticism, let there be criticism. If not, they have nothing to fear."

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi attends during an opening session of the 31th ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017.
AP

Overdrive

2018 TOYOTA C-HR:

Frugal can still be fun

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Toyota C-HR

Times' take: Solid entry-level compact crossover
Highs: Easy to drive, easy to afford
Lows: Lacking in infotainment options
Vehicle type: Four-door compact SUV
Base price: $23,460
Price as tested: $24,427
Powertrain: 2-liter, 4-cylinder gasoline engine
Transmission: Multi-speed CVT automatic
Horsepower: 144
Torque: 139 pound-feet
EPA fuel economy rating: 27 mpg city / 31 highway / 29 combined

The 2018 Toyota C-HR.
TNS

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Toyota became the world's largest automaker by building cars that were long on sensibility but short on sex appeal.

With the exception of the 2000GT, the FJ40 and maybe the MR2, the Japanese giant has never been known for making machines that excite the soul.

Instead, it has concentrated on practical people movers that run right, run long and never fail.

Toyota's new C-HR is a very good addition to the legacy of Corollas, Camrys, RAV4s and Prii. It's frugal and fun to drive.

The C-HR—the name stands for Coupe High-Rider, Toyota says—is a four-door, five-seat cute-utility vehicle, described as either a compact or subcompact SUV.

Powered by an efficient two-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine, it offers 144 horsepower and 139 pound-feet of torque, applied to the front wheels by Toyota's CVT automatic transmission.

Those aren't big numbers, but this is not a big car. Riding on 18-inch wheels, it's light on its feet and light on the scales, weighing in at 3,300 pounds.

The car has sporty lines, including a sharp downward swoop behind the rear doors and muscular, flared wheel wells.

It comes standard with three drive modes. I found Sport not terribly sportier than Normal, and Eco not terribly less so. So I stayed in Sport for most of the drive, making the most of the little engine by using the manual "stick shift" option.

At times, the car felt like it needed a few more hamsters on the wheel. But the C-HR proved adequate for the hills of Silver Lake and for repeated runs up and down the Hollywood Freeway.

But it's more of a city slicker than a freeway flier. Though the CVT allowed the engine to hit 70 mph while spinning at barely above 2,000 rpm, I found the size and weight of the car, on the standard tires and suspension, didn't inspire the confidence required to stay at passing speeds very long.

The C-HR comes standard as the XLE and in a more luxurious trim line, the XLE Premium. Though both models share the powertrain and include a suite of safety systems—such as lane departure warning, pre-collision sensing and pedestrian alerts—blind spot monitoring and rear cross traffic alert come only on the higher trim.

The base model is pretty basic.

The driver cockpit is appropriately minimalist. The dash and center console are made of practical, easy-to-clean plastic. The rear-view backup camera is not a screen but a window in the rear-view mirror. There is no navigation screen. There is no Sirius XM. Neither is available as an option.

The rear seating section is also very spare. The three back-seat passengers will need to be small ones, as the car offers limited head, leg and side-to-side room. There are no amenities back there either, save a cup holder. Don't look for ports for your devices.

But those rear seats fold down and offer about 40 cubic feet of cargo space. That's room enough for your golf bag, and underneath, the C-HR offers an actual spare tire, with the actual tools to change it.

The model I drove also had a roof rack suitable for carrying a surfboard, skis or snowboard. (That's a $299 option.)

Toyota reported that nearly 15,000 C-HRs had been sold in the U.S. from the time of the vehicle's debut in April through the end of September—below sales numbers for the comparable Honda HR-V, and dwarfed by Toyota's own RAV4.

If you've suffered as I have, and been forced to drive pricier SUVs like the Porsche Cayenne or Jaguar F-Pace, you may unfairly find the C-HR lacking some niceties.

But if you're a starting-out car buyer, shopping for a smaller RAV4 or perfectly serviceable alternative to the Honda HR-V or Mazda CX-3, the C-HR is a lot of car for the money and could be a smart choice.

Under the Hood: Converted van pulls to the left

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q Please see if you can shed some light on my problem, which the local Ford dealer cannot solve. It's a 2002 Ford van that was converted into a Pleasure Way mini motor home when new. We've had lots of problems with it pulling hard to left when braking but drove straight. We've put lots of work and money into the front end and brakes, now no pulling when braking but it still drifts badly left when driving. The tie rod ends and sleeves have been replaced and a camber-caster kit installed, and it's been aligned twice.

The vehicle still drifts to the left as badly as ever. The dealer said that since the generator and propane tank were on the driver's side, perhaps that is why the drifting. I can't believe every Class B motorhome on the road, most of which are set up like mine all drift left. Can you offer any suggestions?

— Ron Drozd.

A When diagnosing a pull-to-one-side situation, I'd start by swapping the front tires side to side, along with a fresh set of eyes checking suspension and steering parts for looseness or damage. Sometimes a tire can have an off-center belt that contributes to pulling. The addition of the caster-camber kit (ball joint stud adjuster-bushings with an eccentric center hole) was a great move, as this allows fine tuning of front alignment angles.

Most vehicles track best with about a half degree more positive caster on the right side suspension than the left. Caster is the angle of the upper and lower ball joint center-lines, similar to the angle of rake of a bicycle's front fork. The extra half degree on the right helps the vehicle track straight on a crowned road, rather than pulling slightly to the right. Your van may have a larger caster spread than this, possibly due to an alignment tech calling it "good" when the caster is at an unfortunate spread within the one-degree allowable tolerance. Loosening the pinch bolt and rotating the adjuster bushings to the desired rotational position, getting both camber and caster just right, is a lot of work, and can be frustrating. It's also possible a suspension part is tweaked slightly, and the ideal caster spread can't be achieved.

After viewing images of identical and similar Class B mini-motorhomes (a large and heavily loaded van) and looking at how close they run to the maximum gross vehicle weight, I think stability could be noticeably enhanced by adding either an air bag or elastomer rear suspension kit. Firming up and leveling the rear suspension could do a lot of good minimizing the effects of generator and propane tank weight, keeping the front suspension pointed straight.

Q My 2003 BMW 325ci convertible has about 98,000 miles. I had a coolant leak I fixed a few months back; had to replace the plastic reservoir as it is notorious to leak at seams. Since that time, whenever I start the car (being parked for 8 hours or so) the coolant light stays on for a minute and then goes out. Coolant has been always full. Last week I noticed that if car is parked on a (downward) slope the light doesn't come on at all.

— Gary P.

A It seems your expansion tank float switch is indicating low fluid level as the cold fluid level contracts. With the engine cold and unpressurized, remove the expansion tank cap. With the proper fluid level, the tip of the float (a slender red rod) should be between flush with the top of the tank cap threads and protruding 0.8 inches above this. You may be a bit conservative with the fluid level?

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

No word of sex scandal at first Oscar celebration of season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Agnes Varda danced with Angelina Jolie. Donald Sutherland wanted to thank the characters he's played. Writer-director Charles Burnett said getting an Oscar eases the sting of a teacher's heartless words decades ago.

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu dedicated his award to immigrants worldwide. And cinematographer Owen Roizman was moved to tears at the film academy's ninth annual Governors Awards.

Hollywood took a break Saturday from its growing sexual harassment crisis to present the first Oscars of the season to four film-industry veterans and a virtual-reality project. The recipients of the honorary statuettes were selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 54-member board of governors.

Campaigning for movie-making's biggest prize has already begun, as evidenced by the starry turnout of Oscar hopefuls at the private, untelevised gala.

Saoirse Ronan and Greta Gerwig of "Lady Bird," Sally Hawkins, Richard Jenkins and Guillermo del Toro of "The Shape of Water" and Kumail Nanjiani and Zoe Kazan of "The Big Sick" were among the guests—all considered front-runners for Oscar nods.

Not one of the night's presenters or honorees mentioned the sex abuse scandal that's been spreading through the industry since harassment and assault allegations surfaced last month against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Several high-profile men, including Kevin Spacey and Louis C.K., have since been accused of repeated misconduct.

With sexual harassment off to the side, the Governors Awards was a night of classic Hollywood schmoozing and celebration. One of the most exclusive parties of the year, the guest list included Tom Hanks, Salma Hayek, Jake Gyllenhaal, James Franco, Sarah Paulson, Emma Stone, Robert Pattinson, Gary Oldman, Ben Stiller, Sofia Coppola, Patty Jenkins and Sam Rockwell.

Roizman, who has been nominated for five Academy Awards during his career, received his honorary Oscar from Dustin Hoffman (who apologized earlier this month after being accused of sexually harassing an intern in 1985). Hoffman praised the cinematographer for his integrity on and off screen, and Roizman's eyes were misty as he accepted his award.

Varda was introduced by four talented women, including Jolie and Jessica Chastain.

"Are there no men in this room who love me?" the 89-year-old filmmaker said.

Like an imp with two-toned hair, the French New Wave pioneer joyfully twirled her scarf and danced onstage after accepting her Oscar. Jolie described her as "unique, daring and exceptional." Gerwig called Varda "one of my heroes."

Filmmakers Reginald Hudlin and Ava DuVernay and actors Chadwick Boseman and Tessa Thompson said they were moved by Burnett's work because he made their lives visible. He's spent his career telling stories about the African-American experience.

It was while studying at UCLA that he considered using film as a means for social change, he said. But the honorary Oscar is validating beyond film.

AP

Left to right, 2017 Governors Awards honorees Agnes Varda, Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu, Owen Roizman, Charles Burnett and Donald Sutherland pose with their Oscars following a ceremony at The Ray Dolby Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Hundreds in Hollywood march against sexual harassment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Armed with signs, catchy phrases and a motivation to take #MeToo beyond the internet and into real life, a few hundred women, men and children gathered Sunday among the sex shops and tourist traps of Hollywood Boulevard to protest sexual harassment.

The Take Back the Workplace March and the #MeToo Survivors March joined forces in the heart of Hollywood, near the entrance to the Dolby Theater where the Academy Awards take place. They walked side by side past the tourists, costume shops, strip clubs and a man wearing a "Whiskey Made Me Do It" T-shirt to gather for a rally of rousing speeches from the likes of Harvey Weinstein accuser Lauren Sivan and Oscar-winning producer Cathy Schulman.

"Not in pots, not in plants, keep your junk inside your pants," the crowd chanted for a few minutes, before shifting gears to: "Harvey Weinstein is a joke, women workers just got woke."

Other chants included, "Survivors united, we'll never be divided" and "Whatever we wear, wherever we go, 'yes' means 'yes' and 'no' means 'no.' "

Some came with their families, some came with friends and attendees ranged in age from 4 to over 68. Aislinn Russell, a 15-year-old Los Angeles high school student came with two peers and signs railing against terms like "friend zone" and "slut."

"Seeing the #metoo movement growing and seeing all these people telling their stories, I have my own stories too," Russell said. "I want to join in with that and not be silent with everything going on."

Her sign, drawn in pink and purple block letters read: " 'Slut' is attacking women for their right to say yes." Her friend's read: " 'Friend Zone' is attaching women for their right to say no."

Another attendee, Nancy Allen, a 52-year-old woman from Los Angeles, carried a sign that read, "I was 7."

"We've been silent too long," Allen said. "A lot of people have kept this inside us for years and years."

Howard Kim, a 68-year-old Los Angeles resident, came out to support the march.

"I'm just a little sorry there aren't more people out here," Kim said. "I was hoping there would be."

Event organizers estimated there were about 200 to 300 attendees. But they also acknowledged that it was "difficult to tell" with the normal Hollywood Boulevard crowds.

The crowd walked about a mile to the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Cole, the site of CNN headquarters, where a podium was set up for the Take Back the Workplace rally.

Sivan, a TV journalist who alleged sexual harassment from Weinstein and served as the "celebrity chair" of the Take Back the Workplace event, said that the time is ripe for a re-ordering of power.

"We want our daughters and sons to be able to go to a workplace and never have to take a meeting with a dude in a bathrobe," Sivan said. "They will never have to choose to put out or keep their job."

Liz Smith, syndicated gossip columnist, dies at 94

By CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liz Smith, the syndicated gossip columnist whose mixture of banter, barbs, and bon mots about the glitterati helped her climb the A-list as high as many of the celebrities she covered, died Sunday at the age of 94.

Joni Evans, Smith's literary agent, told The Associated Press she died of natural causes.

For more than a quarter-century, Smith's column— titled simply "Liz Smith"— was one of the most widely read in the world. The column's success was due in part to Smith's own celebrity status, giving her an insider's access rather than relying largely on tipsters, press releases and publicists.

With a big smile and her sweet southern manner, the Texas native endeared herself to many celebrities and scored major tabloid scoops: Donald and Ivana Trump's divorce, Woody Allen and Mia Farrow's impending parenthood. One item proved embarrassingly premature: In 2012, she released a column online mourning the death of her friend Nora Ephron. But Ephron, who was indeed gravely ill, did not die until a few hours later and an impending tragedy that Ephron had tried to keep secret became known to the world.

Smith

Smith held a lighthearted opinion of her own legacy.

"We mustn't take ourselves too seriously in this world of gossip," she told The Associated Press in 1987. "When you look at it realistically, what I do is pretty insignificant.

"Still, I'm having a lot of fun."

"I was fortunate enough to work with the amazing Liz Smith," Al Roker tweeted. He said that during his time at WNBC, she was nothing short of "fabulous."

"Liz Smith was the definition of a lady," actor James Woods tweeted. "She dished, but always found a way to make it entertaining and fun."

After graduating with a degree in journalism from the University of Texas, Smith recalled buying a one-way ticket to New York in 1949 with a dream of being the next Walter Winchell.

But unlike Winchell and his imitators, Smith succeeded with kindness and an aversion to cheap shots. Whether reporting on entertainers, politicians or power brokers, the "Dame of Dish" never bothered with unfounded rumors, sexual preferences or who's-sleeping-with-whom.

"When she escorts us into the private lives of popular culture's gods and monsters, it's with a spirit of wonder, not meanness," wrote Jane and Michael Stern in reviewing Smith's 2000 autobiography, "Natural Blonde," for the New York Times Book Review.

But it may have been the question of her own sexuality which kept her from discussing that of the stars. A subject in the gay press for many years, Smith acknowledged in her 2000 book that she had relationships with both men and women, and confirmed a long-rumored, long-term relationship with archaeologist Iris Love.

Shawn Mendes, Eminem among winners at MTV EMAs in London

LONDON (AP)—Shawn Mendes beat Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran to win the best-artist prize Sunday at the MTV EMAs, while U2 were proclaimed global icons in a show that celebrated London's diverse culture, from pubs to pirate radio.

Mendes, the 19-year-old Canadian star, also won the best-song trophy for "There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back," to the delight of fans standing in a polite onstage mosh-pit at the city's SSE Arena. Fittingly, he also took the prize for best fans.

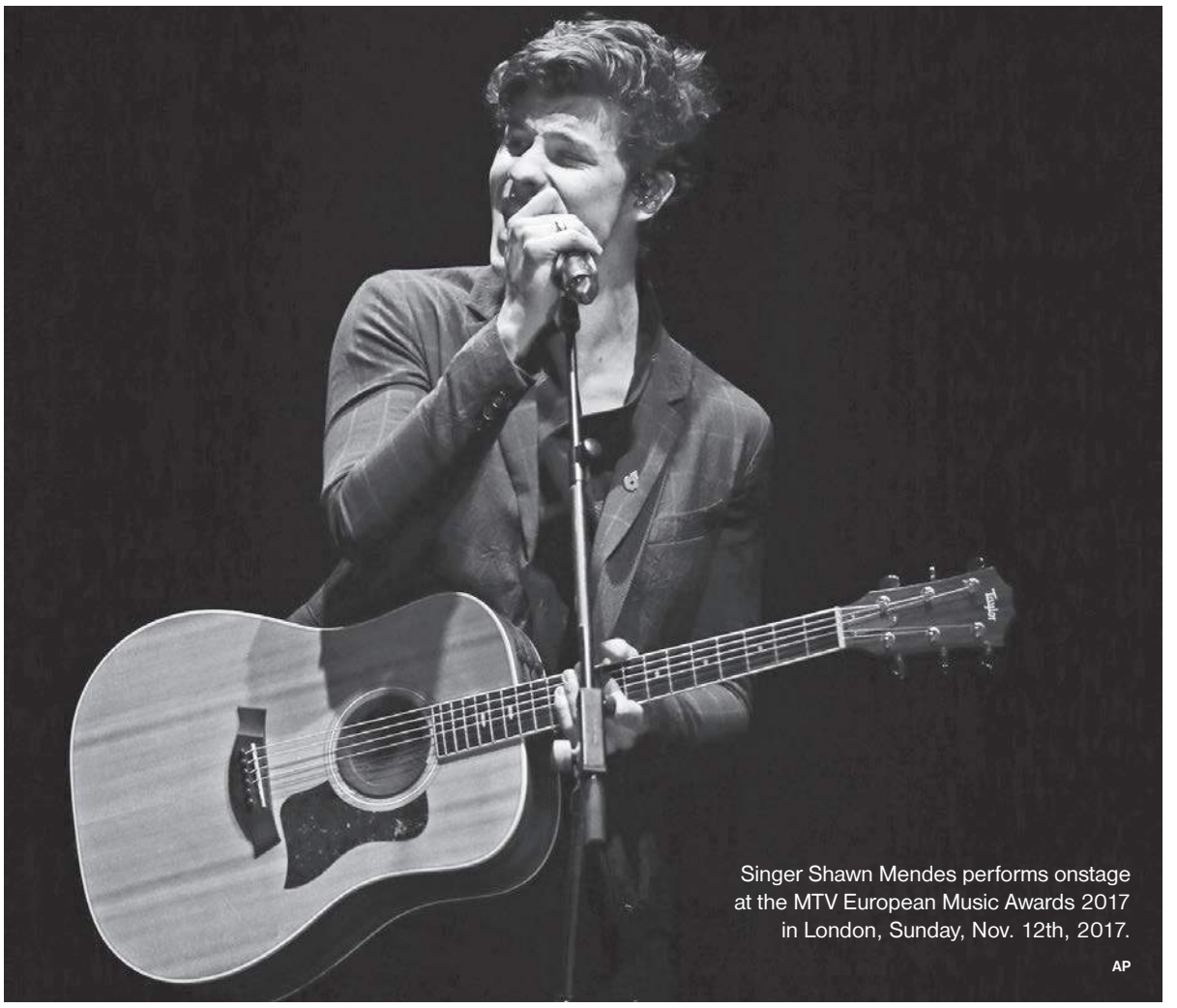
The show, formerly known as the MTV Europe Music Awards, opened with a clip of Eminem performing his new single "Walk on Water" in a London pub. He then emerged onstage in jeans and a black hoodie to perform the slow-burning number live, with Skylar Gray filling in on the duet duties Beyoncé performed on the recording.

Eminem was also named best hip-hop artist, and proclaimed surprise.

"I don't know how I got this because I haven't had an album out in a few years," he said.

Sunday marked the awards' return to London for the first time since 1996, and locally bred singer Rita Ora was a suitably chipper host. Taking the stage clad in a bathrobe and towel, she kept things moving, changed outfits every few minutes and gamely joshed in video clips with the stars of pirate-radio sitcom "People Just Do Nothing."

The show featured plenty of visual dazzle, from the 50 dancers accompanying Demi Lovato on "Sorry Not Sorry" and "Tell me You Love Me" to the giant animatronic bird carrying Travis Scott onto the stage.



Singer Shawn Mendes performs onstage at the MTV European Music Awards 2017 in London, Sunday, Nov. 12th, 2017.
AP

Singer Camila Cabello, who won the best-pop prize, performed "Havana" with a troupe of dancers dressed as bathing beauties around a realistic projection of a pool. London grime artist Stormzy arrived in a police car and left in a blaze of fireworks after performing the rousing "Big For Your Boots."

Performers ranged across genres and generations, and included singer-songwriter Kesha, electronic act Clean Bandit, rapper French Montana, rockers The Killers and former One Direction heartthrob Liam Payne.

Kendrick Lamar won best video for "Humble," a lavish clip laced with religious and art-history imagery.

Coldplay was named best rock act, while the best-alternative prize went to Thirty Seconds to Mars. Frontman Jared Leto thanked Europe, adding that the U.S. is a land of immigrants and "we welcome you with open arms."

British singer-songwriter Dua Lipa was named best new artist.

Apart from the occasional hint of marijuana smoke wafting across the arena, there were few of the unscripted-feeling moments that made past shows stick in the memory. There was no equivalent of Kanye West crashing the stage after losing in 2006 or Miley Cyrus smoking a joint in Amsterdam in 2013.

U2, who played an MTV-sponsored concert in London's Trafalgar Square on Saturday, received the Global Icon award from Leto, who said "U2 changed my life."

"Their songs are prayers, their concerts a church," he said. "They challenge us, they inspire us."

The Irish band dedicated the award to label boss Chris Blackwell of Island records, who signed them almost 40 years ago. And in a nod to a new generation of artists, Bono crooned an a capella version of Stormzy's "Blinded by Your Grace."

The awards are held in a different European city each year, with winners selected by fans across the continent. Next year's ceremony will be held in Bilbao, Spain.

WINNERS' LIST

Winners of the 2017 MTV EMAs, held Sunday in London:
Best Song: Shawn Mendes, "There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back"
Best Artist: Shawn Mendes
Best Look: Zayn
Best New: Dua Lipa
Best Pop: Camila Cabello
Best Video: Kendrick Lamar, "Humble"
Best Live: Ed Sheeran
Best Electronic: David Guetta
Best Rock: Coldplay
Best Hip-hop: Eminem
Best Alternative: Thirty Seconds to Mars
Biggest Fans: Shawn Mendes
Best Push: Hailee Steinfeld
Best World Stage: The Chainsmokers

'Thor' tops 'Daddy's Home 2,' 'Orient Express' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The God of Thunder isn't ready to relinquish his box office throne yet.

Studios estimated Sunday that "Thor: Ragnarok" added $56.6 million from North American theaters in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to $211.6 million.

The film, from Disney and Marvel and directed by Taika Waititi, outgrossed each of its two predecessors domestically in just two weeks, not accounting for inflation.

It easily beat out the comedy sequel "Daddy's Home 2" and the lavish Agatha Christie adaptation "Murder on the Orient Express," even as both posted solid openings.

Paramount scored again with "Daddy's Home 2," which adds John Lithgow and Mel Gibson to the Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg formula. The film, which cost a reported $69 million to produce, took second place at the box office with $30 million. The first film from 2015 grossed $242.8 million worldwide on a similar budget.

Critics were not won over by the comedy, but audiences seemed pleased, giving the film an A- on CinemaScore.

The star-studded "Murder on the Orient Express," meanwhile, screeched into third place with an estimated $28.2 million against a $55 million budget. Kenneth Branagh directs himself in the film, which also stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Johnny Depp, Daisy Ridley and Judi Dench.

1. "**Thor: Ragnarok,**" $56.6 million ($75.9 million international).
2. "**Daddy's Home 2**," $30 million ($429,000 international).
3. "**Murder on the Orient Express**," $28.2 million ($45.8 million international).
4. "**A Bad Moms Christmas**," $11.5 million ($8.5 million international).
5. "**Jigsaw**," $3.4 million ($8.6 million international).
6. "**Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween**," $2.1 million ($45,000 international).
7. "**Geostorm**," $1.5 million ($5.4 million international).
8. "**Blade Runner 2049**," $1.4 million.
9. "**Happy Death Day**," $1.3 million ($6.8 million international).
10. "**Lady Bird**," $1.2 million.

Audiences were mostly female (56 percent), and Caucasian (65 percent), but somewhat evenly split in terms of age (51 percent were over 35).

"It gives me an incredible injection of optimism for the future of our business. This is sumptuous, throwback Hollywood filmmaking, and audiences responded to it," said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for Twentieth Century Fox.

The studio expects the film to play well through the Thanksgiving holiday, appealing to audiences who are not rushing out to see the latest comic book adventure. Next week, DC and Warner Bros.' superhero ensemble pic "Justice League" opens.

"I don't think our audiences will overlap a lot," Aronson added.

"A Bad Moms Christmas" took fourth with $11.5 million in its second weekend, and "Jigsaw" rounded out the top five with $3.4 million.

In smaller releases, Greta Gerwig's buzzy coming-of-age film "Lady Bird," from distributor A24, also broke into the top 10 in its expansion to 37 theaters, earning $1.2 million. Another awards contender, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," starring Frances McDormand, opened to a strong limited release with $320,000 from just four theaters.

Still, the overall box office continues to lag, down 5 percent for the year.

"We're still down from the same weekend a year ago about 7 percent. Despite 'Thor' and these newcomers, a lot of these films aren't creating a lot of excitement," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It's going to take this combination of 'Justice League' and 'The Last Jedi' and everything in between to try to dig us out of this deficit."

In Boston, a Dutch treat of donated Golden Age masterpieces

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's art scene is getting a Dutch treat with a twist: a flurry of donated 17th-century masterpieces that experts say will change the city's museum landscape for decades to come.

First, collectors gifted the Museum of Fine Arts with 113 leading Golden Age masterpieces—including a prized Rembrandt portrait and works by Rubens and Brueghel—and established a new center dedicated to the study of Dutch and Flemish art.

Now, the Harvard Art Museums have been bequeathed 330 drawings dating to the 1600s.

Practically overnight, scholars say, the gifts have made Boston a global center for the period.

"I can't remember a time when a city has been a beneficiary of such significant gifts in such a short time," said Arthur Wheelock Jr., a curator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and a leading expert on Rembrandt, Vermeer and the other Dutch masters who left such an indelible mark on the art world.

Boston-area collectors Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo and Susan and Matthew Weatherbie last month donated works by 76 artists to the Museum of Fine Arts. The gift included funding for a new research library and a Center for Netherlandish Art at the museum, the first of its kind in the U.S.

It's the largest gift of European paintings in the museum's history and will nearly double in size its collection of Dutch and Flemish paintings.

The collection includes Rembrandt's 1632 portrait of Aeltje Uylenburgh, a cousin of Rembrandt's wife-to-be. Experts say the work is in nearly perfect condition. Other donated paintings include landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes and still lifes, some of which are included in "Masterpieces of Dutch and Flemish Painting," a new exhibition that runs through Jan. 15 at the MFA.

Then, last week, the Harvard Art Museums were pledged a trove of drawings—including works on paper by Rembrandt and his students—by George Abrams, a Harvard-educated lawyer who has amassed a vast collection and had donated 140 other sketches in past years. Select pieces are on display through mid-January at Harvard, where the government of the Netherlands knighted Abrams to recognize his contributions to the art world.

Geldof to turn in Dublin honor to protest plight of Rohingya

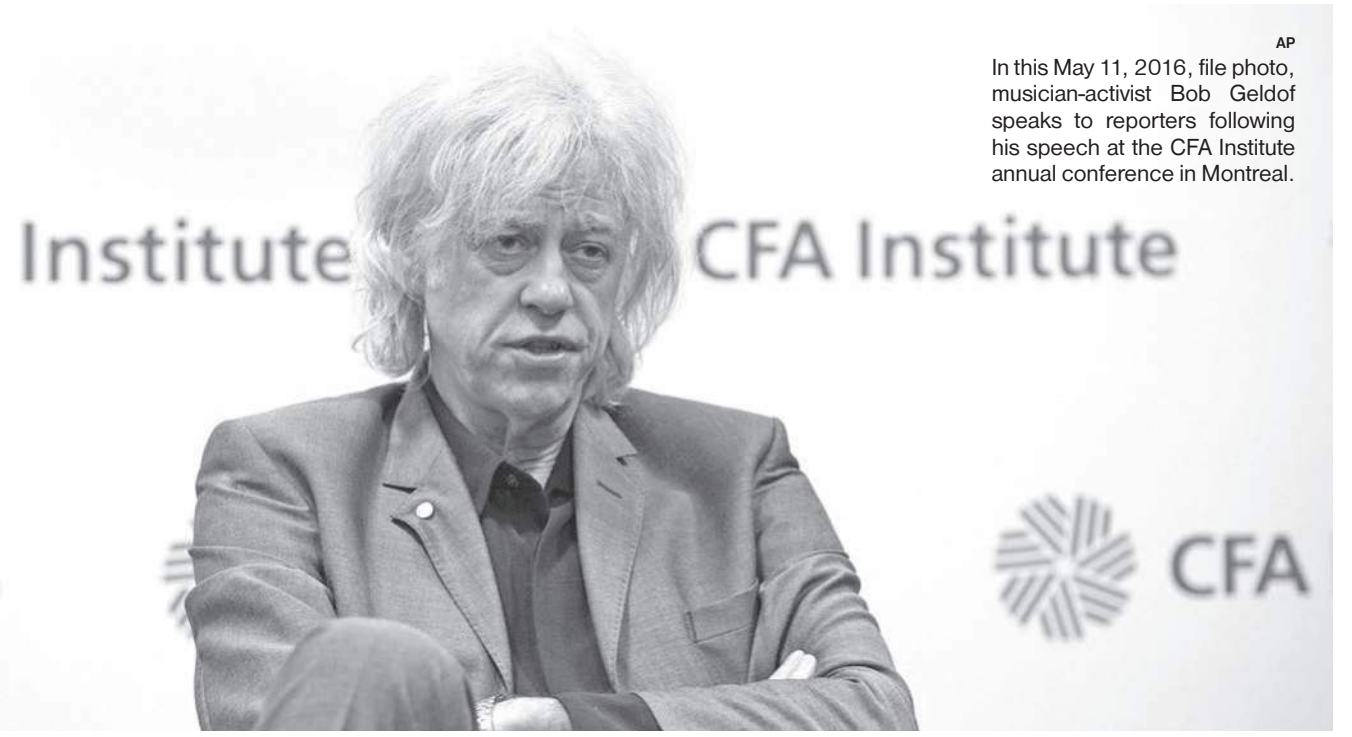
LONDON (AP)—Irish rock singer Bob Geldof says he is returning his Freedom of the City of Dublin honor because it is also held by Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, accusing her of complicity for what he and others, including the United Nations, call "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya Muslims in the Asian nation.

The founder of Live Aid says Suu Kyi is a "handmaiden to genocide" whose association with Ireland's capital "shames us all."

Suu Kyi is a Nobel peace laureate for her leadership of the democracy movement in Myanmar but she has come under widespread criticism as her country's civilian leader because of violence that has caused many in the Rohingya minority to flee the country.

In a statement, Geldof says he will turn his award in at City Hall on Monday morning. He says he is a "proud Dubliner" and does not want the ceremonial title while Suu Kyi also holds it.

He says that "her association with our city shames us all and we should have no truck with it, even by default."



AP

In this May 11, 2016, file photo, musician-activist Bob Geldof speaks to reporters following his speech at the CFA Institute annual conference in Montreal.

Myanmar is a Buddhist-majority country that doesn't recognize Rohingya as an ethnic group, contending they are Bengali migrants from neighboring Bangladesh living illegally in the country. It denies them citizenship, leaving them stateless.

The latest violence began with a series of attacks Aug. 25 by Rohingya insurgents that was followed by attacks by Myanmar security forces on Rohingya villages that the U.N. and human rights groups have criticized as a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Suu Kyi was awarded the Dublin honor in 1999 for her work to bring democracy to Myanmar, but she didn't formally receive it until a visit in 2012, when she was also feted with a concert organized by Amnesty International.

In a speech this past September, Suu Kyi urged the international community to be patient over the crisis, and also suggested that the fleeing Rohingya were partly responsible.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tangled Up in Green: Dylan guitar sells for nearly $400,000

DALLAS (AP) — A guitar played by Bob Dylan at notable concerts in 1970s has sold at auction for nearly $400,000. Heritage Auctions in Dallas says a buyer requesting anonymity paid $396,500 Saturday for the singer-songwriter's 1963 Martin D-28 acoustic guitar. The company says Dylan played the guitar through his set at George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh in New York City in 1971 and during his Rolling Thunder Revue tour from October 1975 to May 1976. The guitar was sold by Larry Cragg, who was Dylan's guitar repairman. The original 1977 purchase receipt, which was included in the offering, shows Cragg bought the guitar from Dylan for $500. A Fender Stratocaster Dylan played at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival when he went electric sold for nearly $1 million in 2013.

Schwarzenegger calls on climate activists to change methods

BONN, Germany (AP) — Movie star and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger wants environmental activists to give more attention to immediate health hazards like air and water pollution. Schwarzenegger spoke Sunday at a global climate meeting in Bonn, Germany, where diplomats from around the world are discussing implementing the Paris climate accord. He said: "It's time we wake up and talk about what really matters: 25,000 people dying every day because of pollution." Schwarzenegger also criticized the environmental community for "missing the point" with its messaging on global warming. He said: "People do not focus as much on 2 degrees energy increases in temperatures or increases in sea levels rising." Schwarzenegger thinks calling attention to concrete issues, like "so many people having problems with cancer and kids with asthma," is a better approach.

Lifetime to premiere movie on Elizabeth Smart's kidnapping

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kidnapping victim Elizabeth Smart is pleased with how a Lifetime movie and documentary she helped produce about her harrowing ordeal turned out. But she said her visit to the movie set brought back terrible memories when she saw actor Skeet Ulrich looking so similar to the man who abducted her.

The upcoming film titled "I Am Elizabeth Smart" follows the nine months after Smart, then 14, was kidnapped by Brian Mitchell from her bedroom in her Salt Lake City home in 2002 and was raped daily by her captor, the Deseret News reported .

Police finally found her in Sandy with the help of two couples who recognized Mitchell from media reports as a suspect in Smart's kidnapping.

Mitchell was convicted and is serving a life sentence for the crime.

The movie features newcomer Alana Boden as Smart, Deirdre Lovejoy—who portrays Mitchell's estranged wife Wanda Barzee, who aided in the kidnapping—and Ulrich as Mitchell.

Smart was on the set for part of the filming, narrated the movie and gave feedback to executive producers Joseph Freed and Allison Berkley.

She especially wanted to help them find a balance between keeping the integrity of her gruesome experience and not being too graphic.

"Certainly a lot of very bad things happen, and I thought, 'How could you possibly show that without it either coming off as dark and terrible and give you nightmares at night,' or sugar-coating everything and making it seem like, 'Oh, this terrible thing happened but it really wasn't that bad, and then a miracle happened?' " she said.

While she enjoyed meeting the actors, Smart said in an interview with Deseret News that she felt uncomfortable when they asked her to take a photo with them.

"It was just this weird experience because I was sitting there like, 'They're lovely people, but I don't know if I should smile because they don't look like lovely people,'" she said. "They look like my worst nightmare."

The movie will premiere Saturday, Nov. 18.

A two-part documentary titled "Elizabeth Smart: Autobiography," in which Smart shares more details about the horrific situation she survived, her rescue and what her life is like now, will be premiered on A&E Nov. 12-13.

Discovery of pregnancy tests surprises live-in girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I am a lesbian. My girlfriend and I have been dating for six months. We have an awesome relationship and are very happy and open with each other.

I know she has dated guys in the past—so have I—so I'm not worried about that nonsense at all. But I recently found something of hers that surprised me. It was a container of pregnancy tests, and one was missing with a Plan B pill alongside of it. I am not mad about it because I know stuff happens, but I would rather that it not happen in our apartment.

I'm tempted to bring it up, but I would honestly rather not discuss it at all. I just don't want anything happening in the apartment. Would it be weird if I just threw the stuff out without telling her, or should I say something?

What if she wants to keep it? I don't think that would be the case, but it would start a fight because, as a female couple, we obviously don't need a pregnancy test. I know I am overthinking this, and I could use some advice on how to handle this uncomfortable situation.

SURPRISED ABOUT IT

DEAR SURPRISED: I'm glad you asked. Do NOT "quietly" throw out those pregnancy tests or the medication. I don't know what kind of arrangement you have with your live-in girlfriend, but if fidelity was part of the agreement, you should absolutely talk with her about what you found. It does not have to degenerate into a fight, but it's important that you know why she feels the need to be in an intimate relationship, regardless of gender, with someone else.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a wonderful life and much to be thankful for, but we have no children and are usually alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Everyone makes such a fuss about sharing these holidays with loved ones, but I become depressed during this season.

I do volunteer work on these holidays, but still feel sad and like everyone else in the country is having a better time than I am. Any suggestions?

NOT SO JOLLY IN ARIZONA

DEAR NOT SO JOLLY: You must be a new reader of my column or you would know that every year around holiday time I receive letters from people like you, expressing that rather than feeling joyful and elated, they feel depressed and deprived. Some of it may be the result of the incessant marketing of these holidays, which gives the impression that "everyone" is having a grand old time sipping cider, stuffing themselves with turkey and caroling under the windows of their neighbors.

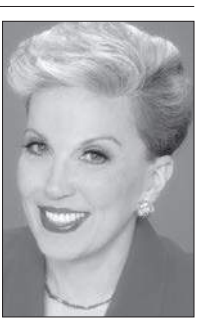
An antidote for your holiday blues might be to do more than volunteer. Why don't you and your husband plan to do something special to treat yourselves, rather than stay home feeling like everyone else is enjoying themselves? Choose a different destination each year to visit and learn about.

Or invite some friends or acquaintances to join you at home. There's a saying that misery loves company, and in your case, company might be the solution to the problem.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

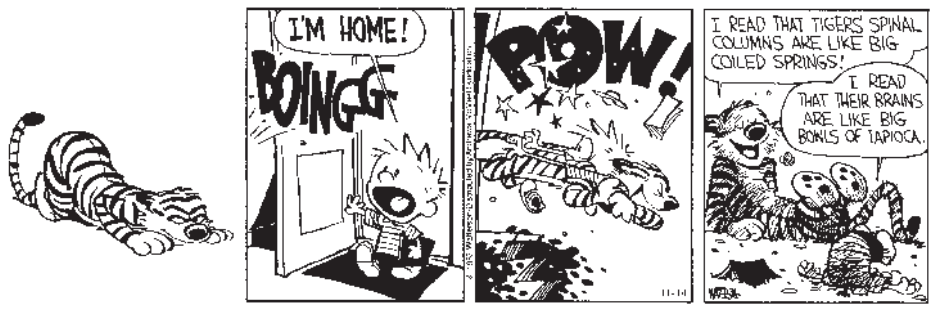


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME!
BOINGGF
POW!
I READ THAT TIGERS' SPINAL COLUMNS ARE LIKE BIG COILED SPRINGS!
I READ THAT THEIR BRAINS ARE LIKE BIG BOWLS OF TAPIOCA.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
HI. I NEED TO BUY A NEW KEYBOARD.
GREAT! WE HAVE SOME WITH EXCITING NEW FEATURES.
DO YOU HAVE ONE THAT DISPENSES ESPRESSO?
UM... NO.
SIGH. THE FUTURE IS REALLY LETTING ME DOWN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN I SEE THE DOG SECTION WHEN YOU'RE DONE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THERE IS NO DOG SECTION.
NO DOG SECTION?
DO ALL THOSE DOGS FETCHING THEIR OWNERS' NEWSPAPERS KNOW THIS?!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

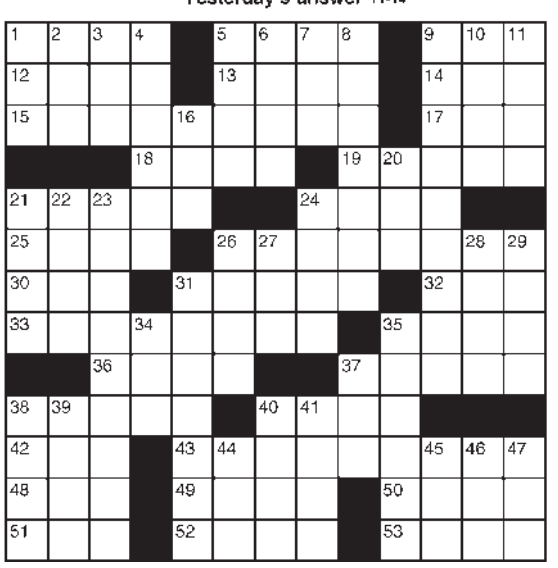
ACROSS
1 Profs' degrees
5 Border on
9 Lettuce variety
12 "Yeah, right!"
13 Traditional tales
14 Chapeau
15 Multistate lottery
17 Sashimi fish
18 Endure
19 Madagascar critter
21 In plentiful amounts
24 Seniors' org.
25 Asta's mistress
26 Diamond event
30 Blackbird
31 Peony part
32 Cowboy's sweetie
33 Play-ending arcade message
35 Con
36 — -bitty
37 Sanctify
38 Coven member
40 "Va-va-—!"
42 "Entourage" role
43 Subdue
48 Calendar abbr.
49 Track assignment
50 Goddess of victory
51 Away from WSW
52 Within (Pref.)
53 Monopoly card

DOWN
1 Domino spot
2 "Veep" airer
3 Morning moisture
4 "A Streetcar Named Desire" cry
5 Priests' garments
6 Gravy vessel
7 Web address
8 Revealing, like a memoir
9 Bubbly
10 Diamond Head locale
11 Commotion
16 Shaft of light
20 Work unit
21 Scrambled wd.
22 "— Lisa"
23 Rudimentary
24 Winged
26 Group of quail
27 Consumed
28 Gym pads
29 Yale students
31 Road hazard
34 And so on (Abbr.)
35 Candy bar nut
37 Jazzy style
38 Fade away
39 Press agent?
40 Air outlet
41 Twistable cookie
44 Moving day rental
45 Golfer Michelle
46 Supplement, with "out"
47 Roulette bet

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	N	A	P	■	F	O	B	■	V	O	L	T
S	O	N	A	T	I	N	A	■	E	C	I	E
S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y	■	N	O	R	M
■	■	■	T	I	E	■	B	A	D	R	A	P
W	H	A	R	F	■	N	E	R	D	■	■	■
E	E	L	Y	■	P	O	R	T	R	A	Y	■
T	R	A	J	■	S	O	R	R	Y	■	C	E	O
■	A	M	S	C	R	A	Y	■	A	L	T	A
■	■	■	H	J	T	S	■	I	N	U	I	T
X	A	N	A	D	U	■	A	S	K	■	■	■
M	A	I	D	■	G	A	M	M	A	H	A	Y
A	R	L	O	■	A	R	M	S	R	A	C	E
S	P	E	W	■	L	E	O	■	A	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer 11-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Travis Barker, 42; Josh Duhamel, 45; Patrick Warburton, 53; Harland Williams, 55.

Happy Birthday: Establish your destination and refuse to let anyone cloud your vision. Know what you want and make it happen. Embrace being different or trying something new and you will find out you are pretty good at things you never imagined. Love and self-worth are featured this year. A positive attitude and healthy lifestyle will be your tickets to success and happiness. Your numbers are 8, 12, 23, 29, 32, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Plan your actions and execute them with flair. You'll be able to capture attention and make headway when discussing travel plans or educational pursuits with someone you want to take on new challenges with. Your enthusiasm will be persuasive. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Anger will not get you ahead, but demonstrating control and channeling your energy into a job well done will make an impression that won't go unnoticed. Celebrate your accomplishments with someone you love. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Go where the action is. Be part of the future instead of hanging on to the past. Share information and partner with people who are heading in a similar direction as you. Network, but don't commit to anything too quickly. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Problems at home will surface if you want everything done your way. Try to get along with the people you deal with and you'll discover it will be easier to get things accomplished. Partnerships need to be nurtured, not tested. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Travel plans, educational pursuits and taking care of what's important to you should be high on your to-do list. Temptation, overreacting and indulgence will be your downfall. Being overly generous or trying to buy love is not recommended. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Direct your energy into activities that will help improve your surroundings at work and at home. A positive change will help you avoid criticism or complaints from people you deal with daily. Use incentives to get your way. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be sensitive to what others do or say. Be aware of your reactions and try to respond in a reasonable fashion. Working alone or striving to gather information as you move forward will help you avoid making a mistake. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* It's all about you and those closest to you. Don't feel like you have to fold to demands from people who are pushy about where or how you should spend your cash. Be true to yourself and make your choices clear. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* If you want change, make it happen. Share your ideas with peers or those you are going to engage in a partnership with. Ironing out the finer details will help you gain approval. Don't get angry or frustrated, get moving. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An emotional incident will develop into an argument if you aren't careful. Listen to explanations and work with others in order to get the most out of any situation you encounter. Compassion and understanding will be required. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An opportunity is within reach, but you can't let anyone interfere with your plans. Don't expect anything from others and you won't be disappointed. Do your own thing and you will have no regrets. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Someone in a position to put demands on you will cause problems. Don't let your emotions and anger take over or you will end up in a no-win situation. Your best alternative is to focus on ways to become self-sufficient. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, creative and compassionate. You are suggestive and persuasive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4			1			6
	8			2			7	
1			5			8		
		8			3			7
	1						6	
3			6			5		
		2			7			4
	9			1			5	
6			8			3		

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	5	2	9	3	1	7	4
3	1	2	4	7	5	8	9	6
7	9	4	6	1	8	2	3	5
5	2	9	8	6	4	3	1	7
8	6	1	3	5	7	4	2	9
4	3	7	9	2	1	6	5	8
2	4	3	5	8	9	7	6	1
1	5	8	7	3	6	9	4	2
9	7	6	1	4	2	5	8	3

Difficulty level ★ 11/7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE NEW APPLE iPHONE 8 & iPHONE X Solution: 9 letters

H	O	F	R	E	P	E	N	C	I	L	E	Z	E	B
A	E	N	A	O	M	U	L	T	I	T	A	S	K	E
N	O	A	L	S	M	A	I	O	W	A	M	M	E	T
D	N	D	D	I	T	U	N	I	I	N	O	A	Y	A
S	I	T	U	P	N	E	R	N	E	D	B	P	B	N
E	T	E	(I)	O	H	E	R	E	E	H	I	S	O	O
T	R	R	(R)	S	L	O	R	R	R	C	L	D	A	I
R	E	C	(I)	E	F	C	N	O	E	N	E	O	R	T
A	P	E	(S)	I	S	U	S	E	K	U	L	P	D	I
N	U	S	L	H	P	S	T	O	E	A	S	R	E	N
S	C	A	C	G	E	A	O	S	U	L	P	I	V	G
L	C	U	R	C	D	C	D	U	A	L	I	A	I	O
A	O	A	O	P	M	E	V	E	V	I	L	E	C	C
T	D	R	U	I	L	A	R	E	M	A	C	N	E	E
E	P	Y	T	O	T	O	R	P	O	P	U	L	A	R

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AirPods, Beta, Bezel, California, Camera, Clips, Cloud, Cupertino, Device, Dual, Faster, Handset, Headphone, Keyboard, Launch, Live, Maps, Mobile, Modern, Multitask, Name, Oled, Online, Pencil, Plus, Popular, Processor, Prototype, Recognition, Rumor, Secret, Siri, Tim Cook, Touchscreen, Translate, Update, Upgrade, Wireless

Yesterday's Answer: Keel Over

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPS-021 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) TWIN ENGINES FOR THE TINIAN ZODIAC VESSEL (2-150 HP) (A) AND THE SAIPAN ZODIAC I VESSEL (2-90 HP) (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-005

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 30, 2017 TIME: 10:00A.M.

"CNMI WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE **SCOPE OF WORK** IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **OCTOBER 31, 2017** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO ERIN DERRINGTON AT erinderrington@becq.gov.mp

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO ERIN DERRINGTON BY PHONE (670) 664-8510 OR BY E-MAIL TO erinderrington@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **NOVEMBER 16, 2017 CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC + 10 HOURS (EMAIL IS PREFERRED).** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 8:00am in the CHCCC Conference Room #2, Garapan, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/07/17)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Quarterly Declaration Report from Physician License #541
  B. Letter from Physician License #541
  C. Expiration of Board Member Dr. Martin Rohringer
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report for FY 2018
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business:
  A. Draft Pharmacy Regulations – For Board approval
XI. New Business:
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Applications:
  B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Complaint #17-01 (PDC)
  B. Case # 2017-002 (MMC)
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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RELIEF

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Find today's solution in classified section

Brady, Patriots get milestone win vs Broncos

DENVER (AP) — Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and the New England Patriots matched their own AFC record with their 12th consecutive road victory, pummeling the Denver Broncos 41-16 on Sunday night.

These teams have represented the AFC in the last four Super Bowls, and the Broncos (3-6) were hoping a visit from their rivals would help shake them from their funk, one that included a 28-point loss at Philadelphia a week earlier. With a win, "the swag, the energy in this locker room, it'll skyrocket," suggested Aqib Talib.

Instead, the Broncos fizzled.

They saw their losing streak reach five games, their longest skid in seven seasons, and they lost back-to-back games to the Patriots (7-2) in Denver for the first time since 1966.

Avoiding Von Miller all night and throwing for 266 yards on 25-of-34 passing, Brady improved to 8-9 against the Broncos, the only team he has a losing record against, and won for just the fourth time in 11 trips to Denver.

His 86th regular-season road win broke a tie with Peyton Manning for most all-time.

Denver Broncos running back C.J. Anderson (22) is stopped short of the goal line by New England Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, in Denver.

49ers 31, Giants 21

In Santa Clara, C.J. Beathard threw for 288 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third score to lead San Francisco past New York for its first victory over the season.

Beathard connected on an 83-yard TD to Marquise Goodwin and a 47-yarder to Garrett Celek in the second quarter as the 49ers (1-9) took advantage of another listless effort by the Giants (1-8) to win for the first time under coach Kyle Shanahan.

Beathard's time as starting quarterback in San Francisco figures to be numbered after the team acquired Jimmy Garoppolo two weeks ago in trade from New England. Garoppolo has been learning the offense and could take over when the team returns from the bye in two weeks.

Falcons 27, Cowboys 7

In Atlanta, Adrian Clayborn set an Atlanta record with six sacks, Matt Ryan threw a pair of short touchdown passes and the Falcons romped to victory over Dallas.

The Cowboys looked anemic offensively in their first game without suspended running back Ezekiel Elliott.

Ryan hooked up with Justin Hardy on a 3-yard pass for Atlanta's first offensive touchdown in the third quarter this season. Early in the fourth, Ryan put the game away for the Falcons (5-4) by tossing one to Austin Hooper for a 1-yard score.

While the Cowboys (5-4) sure missed Elliott, who finally began serving a six-game suspension for allegations of domestic abuse after three legal reprieves, they really noticed the absence of left tackle Tyron Smith.

Rams 33, Texans 7

In Los Angeles, Robert Woods caught two of Jared Goff's three touchdown passes during a dominant third quarter, and surging Los Angeles returned after a month away from home for their fourth straight victory, 33-7 over depleted Houston.

After struggling to a 9-7 lead during a quiet first half for the NFL's highest-scoring team, the Rams (7-2) ran away with a series of big throws by Goff, who passed for a career-high 355 yards.

Woods caught a 94-yard TD pass to break it open before Sammy Watkins and Woods made TD catches 19 seconds apart late in the third quarter. The Rams defense shut out Houston in the second half and won at the Coliseum for just the third time in 11 games since returning to Los Angeles last season.

Bills 47, Saints 10

In Orchard Park, Mark Ingram scored a career-best three touchdowns and New Orleans won its seventh straight game by plowing through a porous Buffalo defense.

Alvin Kamara also had a 3-yard touchdown rushing as the Saints blew the game open by scoring five times on their first six possessions, not including a one-play series to close the first half. Ingram finished with 131 yards rushing. He scored twice from 3 yards and again on a 1-yard plunge.

The Saints finished with 298 yards rushing and 32 first downs.

Their defense was just as dominating in limiting Buffalo to 198 yards and 10 first downs. And five of those first downs came on Buffalo's meaningless final drive that ended with backup quarterback Nathan Peterman hitting Nick O'Leary on a 7-yard touchdown pass.

Steelers 20, Colts 17

In Indianapolis, Ben Roethlisberger's 32-yard completion to Antonio Brown with 35 seconds set up a 33-yard field goal from Chris Boswell as time expired.

The Steelers (7-2) have won four straight overall and five in a row in the series.

But it sure wasn't easy as the Colts (3-7) held Roethlisberger, Brown and Le'Veon Bell in check. Pittsburgh needed two second-half TD passes from Roethlisberger to fight its way out of a 17-3 third-quarter deficit. And Roethlisberger reverted to his traditional form on the Steelers' final possession.

The two -time Super Bowl champion marched the Steelers 70 yards in the final 3 minutes, 10 seconds to give Pittsburgh its only lead.

Roethlisberger was 19 of 31 for 236 yards with one interception. Bell had 26 carries for 80 yards and Brown, the league's leading receiver, caught three passes for 47 yards.

Vikings 38, Redskins 30

In Landover, Case Keenum threw touchdowns to four different receivers to build a big lead, and the NFC North-leading Vikings won their fifth in a row.

With Teddy Bridgewater active for the first time since January 2016 after a devastating knee injury, Keenum was 21 of 29 for 304 yards and TD passes to Stefon Diggs, Adam Thielen, David Morgan and Jarius Wright. He was picked off on consecutive throws by D.J. Swearinger. Thielen had eight catches for a season-high 166 yards.

Latavius Murray also ran for a score as five players got into the end zone for Minnesota (7-2), which was 8 of 12 on third downs. The Vikings won their first game out of the bye week for the second time in eight seasons as they try to avoid a repeat of the swoon that cost them a playoff spot last season.

Packers 23, Bears 16

In Chicago, Brett Hundley threw for 212 yards and a touchdown, Nick Perry had three sacks and the Packers snapped a three-game losing streak.

Hundley, starting his third game for an injured Aaron Rodgers, threw a 17-yard touchdown to Davante Adams to make it 23-13 with 5:29 to play, and the Packers (5-4) hung on to beat the Bears (3-6) for the eighth time in nine games.

It was the first victory for a Packers QB not named Rodgers or Brett Favre since 1989.

Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky threw for a career-high 297 yards. The rookie hit Josh Bellamy for a 46-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, but the Bears dropped their second in a row after winning back-to-back games.

Titans 24, Bengals 20

In Nashville, Marcus Mariota tossed a 7-yard touchdown pass to DeMarco Murray with 36 seconds left , and the Titans rallied for their fourth consecutive victory.

It's the longest winning streak for the Titans (6-3) since takin five straight in 2009, and it's their best start to a season since 2008 when the Titans last reached the playoffs as the AFC's No. 1 seed.

Murray ran for two touchdowns, and Mariota finished with 264 yards passing.

The Bengals (3-6) lost for the third time in four games despite sacking Mariota four times. They started with three defensive starters scratched and lost a fourth when linebacker Vontaze Burfict was ejected in the second quarter after pushing the arm of an official.

Jaguars 20, Chargers 17, OT

In Jacksonville, Josh Lambo kicked a 30-yard field goal with 3:12 remaining in overtime, lifting the Jaguars in a wild game.

Lambo's kick got tipped at the line of scrimmage and still cleared the crossbar. The former soccer player and one-time Charger ran the other way and slid on both knees near midfield before getting mobbed by teammates.

It gave Jacksonville its first three-game winning streak since 2013.

The game ended up in overtime after a wacky final two minutes of regulation that included a fumble, two interceptions, a taunting penalty and a costly flag for roughing the passer. At times, it looked as if neither team wanted to win.

Lions 38, Browns 24

In Allen Park, Matthew Stafford lofted a 29-yard, tiebreaking touchdown to Eric Ebron early in the fourth quarter and the Lions went on to beat the winless Browns.

The Lions (5-4) rallied from first- and second-half deficits to earn consecutive victories for the first time since winning the first two games this season. The Browns, who fell to 0-9 on the season, led 10-0 early in the game for their first double-digit lead of the season, and were up 24-17 in the third after Deshone Kizer led two consecutive touchdown drives.

Detroit is the only franchise to have a 0-16 season in 2008.

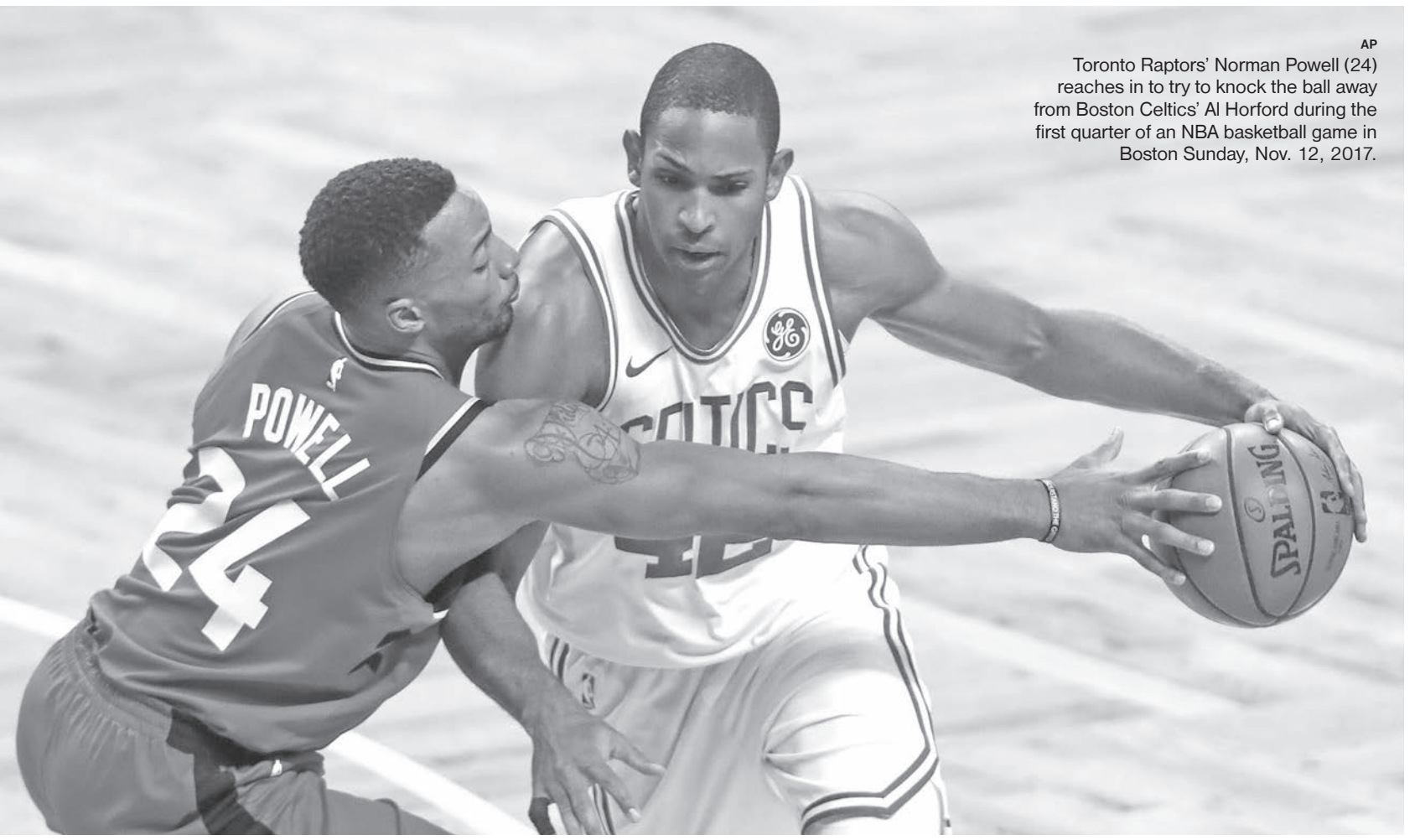
Buccaneers 15, Jets 10

In Tampa Bay, Ryan Fitzpatrick led two long scoring drives and Tampa Bay limited the Jets to less than 200 yards of offense until late in the fourth quarter to snap a five-game losing streak.

With Fitzpatrick filling in for injured quarterback Jameis Winston, the Buccaneers (3-6) used three field goals to build a 9-3 lead. Charles Sims put the game out of reach with a 6-yard touchdown reception with just over six minutes remaining.

Fitzpatrick, facing the team he played for the past two seasons, completed 17 of 34 passes for 187 yards and was intercepted once.

Celtics hold off Raptors for 12th straight victory



AP
Toronto Raptors' Norman Powell (24) reaches in to try to knock the ball away from Boston Celtics' Al Horford during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017.

BOSTON (AP)— Al Horford turned back the clock in his return from a two-game absence with a concussion.

Horford scored 21 points on 8-of-9 shooting to help the Boston Celtics hang on to beat the Toronto Raptors 95-94 on Sunday for their 12th straight victory.

"He's playing young again," teammate Terry Rozier said.

Horford had 15 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists against his former team in Atlanta on Monday night, the same day an elbow to the head from Kent Bazemore sent him into the NBA's concussion protocol. Horford also missed nine games last season with a concussion.

Horford disagreed with Rozier's assessment, thinking he's playing even better.

"I don't know if young Al Horford played like this, to be honest," the former four-time All-Star said. "You know, it's been years of just working on my game and try to play this new way."

Boston (12-2) was playing without Kyrie Irving after he took an inadvertent elbow to the face from teammate Aron Baynes on Friday night against Charlotte. Irving has a minor facial fracture but has not been diagnosed with a concussion as initially feared.

Jaylen Brown added 18 points, and Rozier helped fill in for Irving with 16 points off the bench. Boston shot just 40.2 percent from the field.

DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, and Kyle Lowry had 19 points and seven assists for Toronto. The Raptors dropped to 7-5 after winning two straight.

"They are the best team in the NBA right now, 12 in a row," Lowry said. "They're playing unbelievable, everyone is picking up slack."

Jayson Tatum's acrobatic layup with 1:26 remaining in the fourth quarter put the Celtics up 95-90.

DeRozan missed a potential go-ahead stepback jumper with 19 seconds remaining. Tatum got the rebound, but elbowed Fred VanVleet in the face for an offensive foul that was confirmed by video review.

DeRozan had another look to give Toronto the win, but missed a turnaround jumper with 2 seconds left. Serge Ibaka scooped up the rebound, but lost the ball as time expired.

"He shook him, he was wide open, vaulted up, and I'll take that shot 999 times out of 1,000," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said about DeRozan's effort.

Brown, who was guarding DeRozan on the final possession, was a bit surprised himself that the shot didn't go down.

"That's a shot that DeMar DeRozan probably hits nine times out of ten," Brown said. "I got a late contest, but he missed this one so we'll take the win."

Boston's 12-game winning streak is tied for its third-longest in the last 30 years. The Celtics also won 12 straight from Jan. 11-Feb. 3, 2009. Toronto has never snapped an opponent's winning streak of 10 or more games in franchise history, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

Meanwhile, Irving visited a facial specialist Sunday and was fitted for a mask after being injured Friday. The last time Irving played in a mask was on Dec. 15, 2012, when he scored a then-career-high 41 points versus New York with Cleveland.

Thunder 112, Mavericks 99

In Oklahoma City, down a superstar and a second starter, the Thunder's other two superstars pushed aside the Dallas Mavericks.

Paul George scored 37 points, Russell Westbrook added 27 points and the Thunder overcame the absence of Carmelo Anthony and Steven Adams to beat the Mavericks. George was 7 of 12 from 3-point range.

Anthony was ruled out about an hour before tipoff because of a sore lower back, and Adams, Oklahoma City's starting center, sat out a second straight game with a right calf contusion.

Without Anthony, George and Westbrook carried the offensive load, fueling a 26-10 run in the third quarter that broke open what had been a tight game. Oklahoma City improved to 6-7, winning its second straight after four consecutive losses.

"I thought defensively, it was our best game from start to finish," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I thought we played a complete game defensively. Offensively, I thought we turned it over too much in the first half . but in the second half, offensively and defensively, we played really, really well. ... To come out and play the way they did, being down two starters, I thought they did a great job, all the way through, from top to bottom."

Harrison Barnes had 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Yogi Ferrell had 18 points for the Mavericks. They have dropped nine of their last 10 games to fall to 2-12. Dallas is in a particularly tough portion of its schedule, having lost both ends of a back-to-back against Cleveland and Oklahoma City, and with games against San Antonio and Minnesota looming.

Oklahoma City led 44-42 after a subpar offensive first half for both teams. Westbrook and George combined to go 5 of 18 from the field in the half, but combined to score 32 of the Thunder's 39 points in the decisive third quarter.

With the game tied 48-48 in the third quarter, Westbrook scored on a drive, and then George blew by Dirk Nowitzki for a dunk that led to a Dallas timeout. That started the Thunder's big run, which included three 3-pointers by Westbrook and another by George. Westbrook's final 3-pointer during that stretch put Oklahoma City up 74-58 with 3:35 left in the quarter.

Rockets 118, Pacers 95

In Indianapolis, James Harden had 26 points and 15 assists and Houston beat Indiana.

Indianapolis native Eric Gordon had 21 points for Houston, and Clint Capela had 20 points and 17 rebounds. The Rockets overwhelmed the Pacers from the start, jumping out to a 13-2 lead. Houston continued to pile it on early and often, outscoring the Pacers 24-9 during the first 6 minutes.

Victor Oladipo had 28 points for Indiana.

Pistons 112, Heat 103

In Detroit, Tobias Harris scored 25 points and Avery Bradley added 24 points in Detroit's victory over Miami.

Reggie Jackson scored 17 points, rookie Luke Kennard had 14 and Andre Drummond added eight points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons. At 10-3, they are second behind Boston in the Eastern Conference and off to their best start since going 10-2 in 2005-06.

Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Miami

Stanton-Red Sox trade talks heating up

BOSTON— Trade talks between the Boston Red Sox and Miami Marlins over star outfielder Giancarlo Stanton have been gaining traction in the past few days, Clark Spencer of the Miami Herald reported yesterday.

"They're definitely in play," a source told Spencer.

Writers speculate that Stanton would like to play on one of the two coasts, but there has been no formal indication of that. The only preference Stanton has stated publicly is that he wants to be part of a winning team, and not part of a rebuild.

The Marlins reportedly had conversations with the St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies, San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds over Stanton, but any discussions would be in the preliminary stage.

The new Miami ownership, headlined by Derek Jeter, wants to decrease the teams' payroll to $90 million, and trading Stanton's contract monstrosity is likely part of the front offices' plan.

In New York, CC Sabathia is still hoping for a reunion with the Yankees in 2018, but as of Sunday night, the veteran lefty said there has still been no communication between Sabathia's agent, Roc Nation, and Bombers general manager Brian Cashman.

"We ain't talked yet. It is what it is. It's early. Offseason just started, so I'm just enjoying my family, hanging out right now," Sabathia said Sunday at the Hunt and Fish Club near Times Square, where Sabathia's former Yankee teammate Jorge Posada and his wife Laura were hosting a fundraiser to benefit hurricane relief efforts to storm-ravaged Puerto Rico.

"I hope so," Sabathia, 37, added, referring to a Bronx return. "That's the goal. But I'm not dumb either. I know what this game is about, and how things work. If I'm back, I'm back. If not, I'll play somewhere else."

To that end, Sabathia said he hopes to pitch even beyond 2018, but that a big part of his playing future will depend upon his troublesome right knee - the leg he plants in his follow-through - and whether he can stay healthy. Sabathia went on the disabled list this past season, and even said around that time that he contemplated retirement due to the knee pain he experienced. But Sabathia said he would not need any procedures or scopes done on his knee this offseason.

"No we're good," Sabathia said of his knee. "(Pitching beyond 2018) really depends on my knee. Right now it's just start to start. I want to pitch as long as possible."

The lefty, who went 14-5 this past season, said that when he does make a decision on his future, it will come down to where he can have the best chance to win, and not the amount of years on a contract or comfort level with a team.

Davis earns international judge license

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation president John Davis is now a certified international judge after earning his license during the South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships and Congress held last month in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Davis attended the event to represent the CNMI and was also awarded a license, making him an internationally-accredited bodybuilding judge—a first in the CNMI.

"I am, to the best of my knowledge, the first person from the CNMI to be certified as an international judge. I have yet to test judge for the World Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Federation," said Davis.

He added that anyone from the CNMI who wishes to become an internationally-accredited test judge must first be qualified in the Commonwealth.

"Generally, anyone from the CNMI who wishes to judge at international events sanctioned by the [WBPSF] and the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation must first be qualified in the Commonwealth prior to test judging at the international level," Davis said.

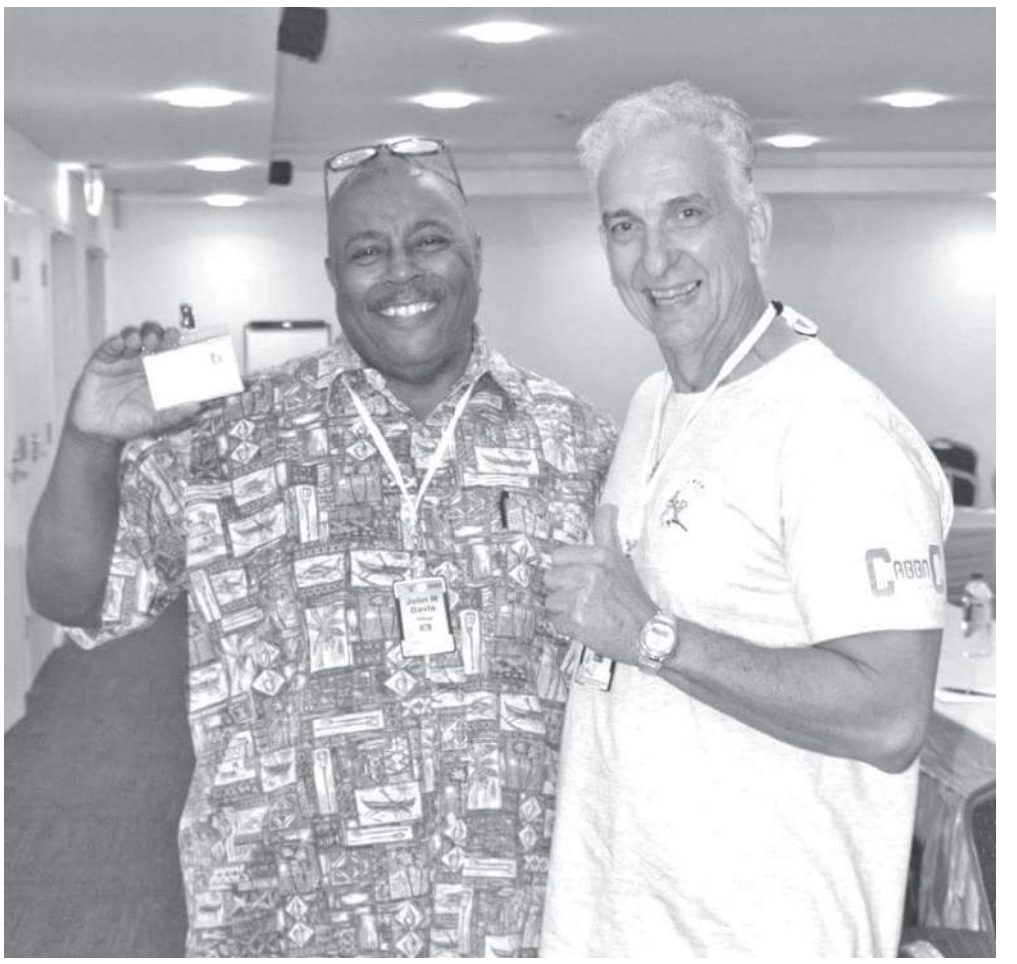
The NMBPF is the recognized group in the CNMI and is authorized to issue judging cards to qualified individuals. It is also responsible in nominating individuals who would want to be a test judge at the international level or in SPBF and WBPSF events.

"To be a judge in the CNMI, one must be a member in good standing with the NMBPF and attend a basic judging seminar," said Davis, who also heads the CNMI weightlifting group and was one of the test judges in the bodybuilding competition in the 2015 Pacific Games held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

"I have been authorized by WBPSF vice president for Oceania Patrick Mounier to present the basic judging seminar. Anyone wishing to attend the seminar should contact me via e-mail."

He added that becoming a test judge in an international event is among the requirements before one earns a license.

For more information on how to join the test judging seminar under Davis, email him at johndavisjr@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation president John Davis, left, shows his international judging card after earning the license in last month's South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships and Congress held in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

12 off-island players to join TanHoldings Tennis Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic that will kick off next week will again feature off-island players.

Tournament coordinator Lydia Tan said two junior players and five adults from Guam, two from Hong Kong, and three from Japan will compete in the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned event that will run from Nov. 24 to 26 (Week 1) and Dec. 1 to 3 (Week 2).

The opening week of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic, which is also NMITA's first offering for the 2017-2018 season, will have games in the juniors singles and doubles and mini tennis (10-and-under). The juniors events (both singles and doubles) are divided into five eight groups: U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18.

Interested participants in Week 1 of the tournament have until this Friday to register. Entry fees are $20 for singles and $15 per person for doubles. Once the registration forms are turned in, tournament organizers will post the draw on Nov. 21.

NMITA junior ranking points will be at stake in the first tournament of the season and the ranking points will determine the CNMI players' chances in representing the islands to the North Pacific Regional Championships.

Meanwhile, for Week 2, players can enter the men's and women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles 3.0, 4.0, open, and over 40 divisions. The same registration fees are in effect, while deadline for submission of entry forms and payment is set for Nov. 24. Draws will be available by Nov. 28.

Registration forms and fees can be turned in to Peter Loken at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts; Jeff Race at Pacific Islands Club court; and Dong Min Lee at Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam's David Lai waits for the ball during the men's 50 and over singles game in last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

SWIMMERS

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record of 35.34 seconds set by Miku Tammy in March 2014. Dangol's new time in the 50m backstroke is also just one second short of the decade-old CNMI national record of 33.20 seconds set by Xenavee Pangelinan in July 2001. In the 100m backstroke, Dangol timed in at 1:14.43 to again beat Tammy's 2015 mark of 1:16.97.

Meanwhile, Ray Santos was named the Male Athlete of the Month after figuring prominently in the first CNMI weightlifting competition held at the Ada Gym.

Santos competed in the seniors' 63.5 kilograms category where he posted a lift of 90 kg (198 lbs) in the snatch, and 110 kg (242 lbs) in the clean and jerk for a total weight of 190 kgs (440 lbs).

Joining Santos, Dangol, and Tenorio on the October's best list was the Marianas Pacific Paddlers, the only all-women's squad from Saipan that participated in the 2017 Micronesian Cup in Guam. The group took the October Team of the Month after winning the gold medal in the 1,000m race in last month's event.

It was MPP's first medal in its seven-year history and the group is looking forward to further improve and train harder in time for next year's Micro Cup.

FC

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with 79 and yielded 32.

TanHoldings 7, Paire 4

Spring season champion TanHoldings settled for the third place honors this fall after completing the double round-robin competition with a 5-1-4 record following its victory over Paire.

Mark Joseph Roque stood up in TanHoldings' final game of the season after firing four goals. He made his first two in the 10th and 13th minute and the last in the 29th and 57th. Anthony John Bergancia had a pair, hitting the board in the 27th and 48th minute, while Angelo Pulido handed TanHoldings its first goal in the third minute.

TanHoldings had a total of 52 goals and surrendered 43.

Paire, which ended the season with a 2-0-8 mark, drew two goals from Mister Dylan, who found the back of the net in the 42nd and 53rd minute. Ethan Taisacan and Dane Hodges registered the two other goals for Paire in the 24th and 50th minute, respectively.

Paire collected 28 goals and yielded 65.

Matansa 10, Kanoa-2 3

Matansa posted a lopsided win over Kanoa-2 to place fourth in the final team standings.

Matansa wrapped up the season with a 5-0-5 record and got five goals from Jin Xin Wen in the last game. Wen made a hat trick in succession, scoring in the 16th, 17th, and 18th minute, while his final two goals were logged in the 52nd and 59th. Alex and Philip Megino, Tamisha Sablan, and John Francis Santiago were the other scorers for Matansa with the latter adding two.

Leland Isaiah Deleon Guerrero also knocked in two goals to lead Kanoa-2's losing cause, while Edison Jay Viana contributed one.

VILLACRUSIS

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U13 division. He had the fastest time of 18:25 to beat Eric Chen by almost two minutes as the ACS runner crossed the finish line in 20:20 and was followed by Miyawaki's teammate, Dylan Mister (20:58). Three ACS runners placed fourth to sixth: Steve Qiue (21:35), Samuel He (22:02), and Martin Song (23:10).

Jenny Lin led an almost ACS sweep in the girls U13 as she came in at the 24.34 mark and was followed by teammate Faith Zou (24:40) and Grace Christian Academy's Soleil Lamar (25:00). Elizabeth Xu (25:17) and Tina Zheng (28:21) of ACS and Saipan Community School's Chloe Seo (29:13) finished in the Top 6.

CCPSA Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Seventh Day Adventist's Marielle Lopez, left, dribbles past her Mt. Carmel School defender during their title game in the girls middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Seventh Day Adventist's Marielle Lopez pulls up for a shot in front of multiple Mt. Carmel School defenders.

Mt. Carmel School and Seventh Day Adventist players battle for the rebound.

Mt. Carmel School's Kiana Propst, left, and Seventh Day Adventist's Anniegail Manuel fight for possession.

Mt. Carmel School's Kiana Propst, right, and a Seventh Day Adventist player go after a loose ball.

A Seventh Day Adventist player, left, hesitates taking a shot against a Mt. Carmel School defender.

A Mt. Carmel School player, second left, dribbles in front of Seventh Day Adventist's Marielle Lopez.

Mt. Carmel School' Fiona Bucalig, third left, is hemmed in by Seventh Day Adventist defenders.

Brady, Patriots get milestone win vs Broncos

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics hold off Raptors for 12th straight victory

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Villacrusis, Zhang rule U18 X-Country

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Christian Villacrusis and Ella Zhang survived the strong challenge from their opponents to top the boys and girls U18 age group competitions in the 2017 All Schools Cross Country Finals held last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

Villacrusis, after the start, just stayed behind a phalanx of runners from Agape Christian School and slowly made his way past them as they went deeper in the first mile of the two-lap course. The Mt. Carmel School student then little by little established some distance from the rest of the pack and was the first runner to make the turn heading into the final lap with three ACS runners right behind him.

From there, Villacrusis paced himself and made one final sprint to the finish in completing the race in 17:22 and beating ACS' Kobe Wang for the boys U18 gold. Wang led ACS' strong effort, coming in at close second at 17:25 and was followed by teammates Jonathan Xiong (18:11) and Peter Wang (18:21).

Saipan International School's Jae Hyuk Jung and Clayton Izuka completed the Top 6 in the U18 boys with times of 18:40 and 18:48, respectively.

While Villacrusis led from start to finish, it was a different story for Zhang in the girls U18 division as she fell behind SIS' Tania Tan early in the race and was still in second as they headed to the final lap.

Starting slow seemed to be Zhang's tactic as she just paced herself and showed she had enough gas in her tank. Zhang went in full sprint going into the final 500 meters to finish ahead of Tan with a time of 19:30. Tan reached the finish line after 12 seconds (19:42), while Tiffany Yang, another ACS female runner, came in at third with a time of 23:09.

Three more ACS runners completed the Top 6 in the girls U18 race: Tian Bo Zhang (23:45), Amelia Yu (25:08), and Kyra Kim (27:46).

In the U15 age group, SIS' Kaden Church and Marianas High School's Therize Millare were the top finishers with times of 19:10 and 19:38, respectively, and were followed by ACS' Paul Cao (19:18) and Stella McCallio of SIS (21:21). ACS teammates Arthur Liang (19:24) and Hansen Li (19:39), MHS' Ken Song, and Bobby Bae of ACS (20:03) completed the U15 boys finishers. SIS teammates Violet Allen (22:52) and Malika Miyawaki (23:40), ACS' Vivian Wu (23:15), and Victoria Torres of SIS (25:05) finished third to sixth places in the girls division.

Multisport athlete Rintaro Miyawaki gave SIS a first place finish in the boys

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JON PEREZ

Ella Zhang of Agape Christian School sprints toward the finish line to win the girls U18 division of last Saturday's NMA All Schools Cross Country Finals held at the Saipan Country Club.

Back-to-back for Kanoa FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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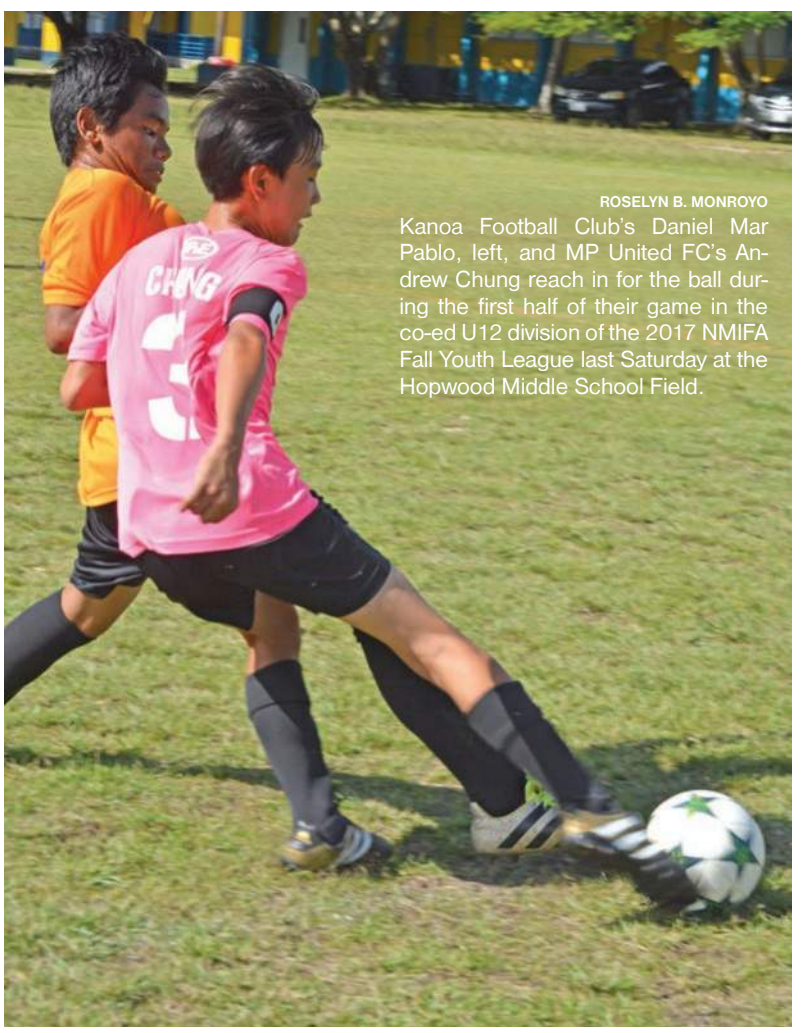
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club kept the co-ed U12 division crown after pulling off a 2-1 victory over rival MP United at the conclusion of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Daniel Mar Pablo, left, and MP United FC's Andrew Chung reach in for the ball during the first half of their game in the co-ed U12 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Two early goals in the one-hour game gave Kanoa enough cushion en route to the club's second straight division title. Kanoa got its first during the 2016 fall season against the same opponent after a similar tough victory, 3-2, in a playoff match.

Markus Toves hit his target in the fifth minute, while John Mark Anastacio followed suit three minutes later, giving Kanoa the momentum. Andrew Chung also scored in the first half for MP United when he found the back of the net in the 13th minute, but that was it for his squad, as Kanoa's defense held on in the second half, denying MPU's bid to regain the crown the club took for three straight seasons. MP United swept the 2015 spring and fall seasons and also won the 2016 spring title before Kanoa incidentally ended the former's reign in the division last fall. In the spring season this year, TanHoldings was the division winner.

With Kanoa's title-clinching victory against MP United last Saturday, the back-to-back champion finished the season with an impressive 9-0-1 win-draw-loss record, scored 54 goals, and gave up 24. MP United had a second-best 7-1-2 slate, but logged the most goals

See FC on Page 26

Swimmers lead October's best

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Youth swimmers Juhn Tenorio and Ashley Dangol led the recipients of the Northern Marianas Sports Association's monthly honors for October, given last week during the group's general membership meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room.

Tenorio and Dangol earned the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Male and Female Student Athletes of the Month awards after their impressive performances in their respective age groups in Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's opening meet held last Oct. 8 at the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi.

Tenorio just turned 13 years old last summer and now holds the CNMI boys 13 to 14 age group record in the 50m backstroke. The Tanapag Middle School student registered 31.31 seconds in the said event to break the 31.98 seconds set by Kaito Yanai more than three years ago.

Dangol shattered two CNMI age group records in the girls 11 to 12 division after setting new personal best times in the 50m and 100m backstroke events in the NMISF open meet. The 11-yeard-old Grace Christian Academy student posted 34.37 seconds in the girls 50m backstroke to surpass the previous

See SWIMMERS on Page 26

TENORIO

DANGOL